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Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab Delegates Meet Before, After 4 Dec Session

Al-'Allaf Holds Coordination Meeting

JN0412151191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Following his arrival in Washington, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the second stage of the Middle East peace talks, met with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the second stage of the peace talks who, along with the members of the Palestinian delegation, arrived in Washington earlier.

Al-'Allaf also met with Lebanese delegation head Suhayl Shammas. Discussions at the two meetings dealt with the bilateral negotiations which are expected to begin before noon today, Washington time, and the importance of coordinating stances between the Arab delegations.

Arab Views Said 'Identical'

JN0512073191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, by George Tarif in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tarif] At your invitation, the heads of the Arab delegations now in Washington to resume the talks that had started in Madrid met yesterday. What is your assessment of the meeting?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The meeting was good and very successful. We discussed the importance of coordination among the Arab delegations participating in the negotiations. Of course, and as everybody knows, new issues do emerge at times, and it is preferable that a unified Arab position toward these issues be taken. Hence, the importance of the meeting. Our views were identical, and the discussions were open. The aim was to come up with the best results.

[Tarif] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, are you going to the meeting hall today?

['Abd-al-Shafi] You know that we went to the meeting hall in the morning, and the Israeli delegations did not show up. We waited for 30 minutes and then left. We informed the host country that we are indignant over the absence of the Israelis and we expressed our belief that they are not taking the peace talks seriously. We will not go to the meeting hall in the afternoon, nor will we go tomorrow, unless the sponsoring state informs us that the Israeli delegation will be there.

Delegations Leave After Israeli Nonattendance

JN0412163691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1535 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Washington—The Arab delegations to the Middle East peace talks arrived at the State Department building in Washington at the set time to begin the second stage of these talks. Meanwhile, the Israeli delegations have not arrived.

News agencies said that the Syrian and Lebanese delegations left the talks halls 20 minutes after the set time for the beginning of the talks because the two Israeli delegations were not there. The U.S. Administration had set 1000, Washington time, 1700 Damascus time, for the start of this round of the peace process at the State Department building.

Syria 'Deeply Regrets' Israeli Move

JN0412184491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Washington, 4 Dec (SANA)—The Arab delegations to the Middle East peace talks at 1000 this morning headed for the headquarters of the second stage of the Middle East peace negotiations at the time set by the two cosponsors of the conference.

Delegations of the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan arrived at the U.S. State Department building, which was decided to be the venue for holding the negotiations.

Fifteen minutes after the set time for the beginning of the talks, the two cosponsors of the conference told the Arab delegations that the Israeli side would not be attending the negotiations on the date set by the two cosponsors. Then, the Arab delegations left the State Department building.

In a statement to reporters before leaving the negotiations hall, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation, said the Syrian delegation came at the set time and was surprised by the absence of the Israeli side.

He added that the Syrian delegation deeply regrets this behavior, which means that Israel does not view the peace process with the same seriousness as the Arab parties do.

He said: We consider this action evidence that the Israeli Government is putting obstacles to peace, and the two cosponsors of the conference should take quick measures to confront these Israeli obstacles in order to maintain the peace process.

When asked whether the Syrian delegation is going to have talks with the American side, he replied that he will have consultations with the U.S. officials because the United States is a sponsor of the conference and because it is hosting this round of bilateral talks.

When asked how long the delegation is going to stay in Washington, he replied by saying that this depends on the results of consultations with the two cosponsors and the Arab delegations.

Syrian Spokeswoman Comments

NC0512084991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Bushra Kanafani, spokeswoman for the Syrian delegation, has refused to say whether the Syrian delegation will meet with the Israeli delegation on 9 December. She said: We do not want to anticipate things.

In an exclusive interview with Voice of Lebanon radio, Kanafani said Israel's absence from bilateral negotiations with the Arab delegations on Wednesday was surprisingly erroneous. She noted that the U.S. reaction is one of disappointment.

Responding to a question about the possibility of shifting the venue of the negotiations from Washington to another location, Kanafani said: It is strange for Israel to object to Washington as a venue. Washington is the capital of Israel's friend. It is not the capital that supported the Arabs, nor is it the capital that armed us from the American people's funds. Therefore, the Israeli stand is extremely erroneous.

In an exclusive interview with the Voice of Lebanon radio, Bushra Kanafani said:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mrs. Bushra Kanafani, spokeswoman for the Syrian delegation to the Washington negotiations: Can you brief us on the Syrian stand? Is there a united Arab stand on what happened today?

[Kanafani] The Syrian and the Arab stand is one of extreme regret, because Israel has proven once more that it is not serious about discussing peace. The failure of an Israeli delegation to attend as required and as scheduled is behavior which dissatisfies those who wish to see a just and comprehensive peace prevail in our region, be they in the region or in the world. They are creating problems. They should discuss these problems with the conference's cosponsors, especially the United States. As far as we are concerned, we are now holding the necessary consultations with the brothers and sisters, members of the Arab delegations, as well as with the conference's cosponsors. As a result of these consultations, an appropriate stand will be adopted.

[Correspondent] Do you agree to meet on Monday, 9 December?

[Kanafani] I do not want to anticipate things. Consultations are being held on these matters.

[Correspondent] Regarding the talks between the Syrian and the Israeli delegations, if we are to transcend the organizational issues, are you prepared to discuss fundamental matters?

[Kanafani] We are here prepared and ready to start discussing the fundamental issues. As far as we are concerned, the fundamental issues begin with the basis of the initiative: namely, the principle of land for peace in accordance with Resolution 242 and the subsequent Resolution 338. These are the fundamental issues: the land and Palestinian rights. [end recording]

Arab Delegates Not To Attend 5 Dec Meetings

JN0512063491 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, by George Tarif in Washington, "after a coordination meeting among Arab delegations"—recorded]

[Text] [Tarif] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam, Arab delegations to the peace talks met yesterday. What are the results of the meeting?

[Al-Majali] As you know, coordination among the Arab delegations is a basic element of Jordanian policy. On the directives of his majesty the king, Jordan always seeks coordination before developments. We therefore responded to Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's invitation for talks among the Arab brothers to coordinate positions toward the current Washington conference, especially as to what the Arab delegations should do about the Israeli delegation's failure to attend the meetings, which one of the cosponsors, the United States, scheduled for 4 December.

We held fraternal discussions. The common Arab interest as well as the interest of each party were in front of us all. It was agreed that we, having responded to the kind invitation of the United States, and given that the other side failed to show up, should stop the meetings, inform the host country about this decision, and ask the host to set a new date to which all parties concerned agree. The new date should be as soon as possible, and the purpose of the meeting should not be to discuss procedures, but to discuss the substance of the peace process in our region. We already have informed the host country about this, and we are expecting a new date for a meeting to be attended by all the parties concerned.

Additional Comments by Delegates

JN0412194291 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Excerpt] We now move to Washington, where the Arab delegations walked into the conference hall, but the Israeli delegation did not show up. We move to our correspondent in Washington, 'Abdallah al-'Utum.

[Begin recording] [Al-'Utum] Arab delegations to the Washington peace conference left a short while ago at the end of the first round of talks, which were scheduled to be here at the U.S. State Department, following the deliberate absence of the Israeli side. The Arab delegations stayed in halls, where there was no opposite side,

for 20 to 30 minutes. They then left the hall. Short meetings were held with the U.S. side to explain the genuine Arab desire for peace.

After leaving the U.S. State Department, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali accused Israel of obstructing the peace process, and announced that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's delegation will return to the U.S. State Department tomorrow and wait there. He also announced that the Jordanian delegation will not wait until 9 December, Monday.

The Palestinian delegation said the talks have failed because only a wall was on the other side, because the Israeli delegation was absent.

The Syrian delegation said the next few days hinge on consultations which the Arab sides will hold with Israel. The Lebanese delegation also said it will not wait for 9 December, and accused Israel of planning to foil the meeting.

[Al-Majali; remainder of broadcast in English] We have come with open hearts and minds to talk peace. Regrettably, we found empty chairs. We waited for them and they did not show up. You recall that at the joint invitation of the United States President and the president of the Soviet Union, the Middle East peace conference convened in Madrid between the 30th of October and the 3d of November last. The conference launched direct, bilateral negotiations between the Arabs and the Israelis on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 along two tracks, Palestinian-Israeli track and Arab-Israeli track. The first session of such direct, bilateral negotiation was held there in Madrid. Israel was adamant to confine that meeting to procedural issues. We were prepared to enter into substantive discussions with our Israeli counterparts. We reached a deadlock on the venue, and as stipulated in the ground rules of the entire process, the sponsors proposed to the parties the time and location of the next round. Washington was chosen for the bilateral negotiations, while Moscow is going to host the multilateral negotiations. The United States Government, acting as an honest and impartial intermediary, and after consulting the parties, invited us to resume our negotiations on December 4th, which is today. Jordan, together with the other Arab parties, responded favorably and promptly. We did that in keeping with our genuine desire to reach an honorable, just, and durable peace. Israel has throughout tried to derail the entire process. Its stalling tactics have lately intensified regarding the Washington location and timing of the bilateral talks. Israeli officials are in town right now. But instead of talking to us about peace, they are at pains trying to explain away their failing to do that by talking to the media. Thank you very much.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Al-Majali] We are coming tomorrow again to the meeting. If they show up, we will be ready to discuss substantive matters.

[Unidentified reporter] Dr. 'Ashrawi, would you tell us please .... [scene cuts]

[Unidentified reporter] What is the purpose of your coming this morning if there won't be anyone at the other side of the table?

[Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of Syrian delegation] Well, we were invited to come on this day and at this hour, and we are coming because we are sincere in our quest for peace. And we hope that our coming will not fruitless. [scene cuts]

[Ilyas Frayj, member of the Palestinian delegation] Well, the Israelis received the invitation on the same time we received the invitation. We expected the invitation and we are here as invited. Well, the Israelis have created tactical obstacles. I think this is an Israeli red line. [scene cuts]

[Suhayl al-Shammas, head of Lebanese delegation] Well, ladies and gentleman, I want, on behalf of the delegation of Lebanon, to express our disappointment and dismay at the evident absence of Israel from the talks this morning. Our presence here this morning is a clear expression of our seriousness and readiness to engage in constructive talks. We have been deprived of that opportunity. We shall be in contact with the cosponsors, namely the United States of America and the Soviet Union, to express to them our position. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Palestinians Say 9 Dec 'Not Convenient'

JN0412203991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Arab delegations participating in the bilateral peace talks have left the meeting halls, in three government buildings in Washington, in which talks were scheduled to begin this evening between the Arab states and Israel. Israel's absence prevented the resumption of talks.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral talks, read a statement to the press after leaving the U.S. State Department in which he stressed that the Jordanian and other Arab delegations have come fully prepared to resume the talks.

He added: We sat in the hall designated for us and waited for more than half an hour. When the Israelis did not show up, we left the hall and informed the U.S. officials accordingly.

Dr. al-Majali said he informed the U.S. Administration that the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations will come tomorrow to the meeting hall and that consultations will continue with the U.S. Administration over any developments which may occur in the talks.

He added that such conduct by Israel proves to the cosponsors and the world that Israel does not want peace

to be achieved. Israel talks about peace, but does not want to achieve it and lays obstacles in its path, he said.

Dr. al-Majali asserted that 9 December is not a convenient date because it marks the intifadah's anniversary.

Asked if the talks will start next Tuesday, al-Majali said: Let us wait and see what happens.

Responding to journalists' questions after leaving the hall designated for the talks, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said: The Palestinian delegation has come to hold talks with the Israeli delegation with the aim of achieving peace in the Middle East, but the failure of the Israeli delegation to come to resume these talks confirms that Israel plans to undermine and obstruct the peace process. Not only that, at the same time it continues to build Israeli settlements.

They also stressed that 9 December is not a convenient date to resume the talks because it marks the intifadah's fifth anniversary.

Delegation 'May Not Attend' 9 Dec Talks

JN0512062291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Hisham Milhim report from Washington]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks in Washington, has stated that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation may not attend Monday's meetings as proposed by Israel because that day coincides with the fifth anniversary of the Palestinian intifadah. 'Ashrawi added: We will not allow anyone to demand that we violate our principles by fulfilling the wishes of one side. She emphasized that patience has limits.

Dr. 'Ashrawi told Radio Monte Carlo that the United States has seriously dealt with the Israeli boycott and listened carefully to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation's assessment of the situation and the way to deal with it. 'Ashrawi, however, criticized the U.S. Government's decision not to allow photographers to take pictures of the Arab delegations sitting alone at the negotiating tables. She considered this an attempt to contain the public relations and political damage that might be incurred by Israel. [passage omitted]

Shamir: 'Poignant Forewarning' in Nonattendance

TA0512060191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Gil Litman after Irgun veterans convention in Binyeney Ha'uma in Jerusalem on 4 December—recorded]

[Text] [Litman] Sir, do you not agree that, in retrospect, the decision to go to Washington on 9 December was somewhat mistaken—at least from the public relations point of view?

[Shamir] It was not mistaken. It served as a poignant forewarning that Israel acts upon its own wishes and decisions.

[Litman] Where will the talks be held after Washington, sir?

[Shamir] I do not know. In any event, we will get to Washington on 9 December. The peace process will continue, and we will try to continue it in or close to the region.

[Litman] Will the Washington discussions revolve around procedural issues only, or will they include substance, too?

[Shamir] The discussions in Washington will include everything.

Israeli Negotiators Comment on Delay in Talks

Netanyahu on Possible Damage

TA0412173391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Washington by Goni Mardor and Uri Paz—live]

[Text] [Mardor] Mr. Netanyahu, you are in Washington. Can you estimate the damage Israel has suffered, if any, by not showing up for the talks this evening?

[Netanyahu] It is hard to tell. The Arabs may gain several technical points, but I believe it to be a lot less than we had expected. There are two reasons for that: First, there are many things going on in the United States right now that capture national attention here. Second, I must say that when we simply and clearly explain our stand— that the Israeli delegation has not boycotted the talks, but that no one coordinated them with us; that we will come for the talks on Monday; that we will be here, and whoever wants to talk to us is welcome to call on us and coordinate the talks—it is my impression that the explanation is being received better than I thought it would be when I was in Israel. Viewing both the events and the arguments, I would say that it may be unpleasant, but not at all terrible.

[Paz] How were you received in Washington? Did you receive a cool or warm reception from the Americans and the Arabs, some of whom you know from Madrid?

[Netanyahu] I have not yet met the Arabs. As you well know, we have been trying to establish direct contacts with them, and we failed. They are avoiding this, which

is a sign of their insistence on bickering about showing up or not. When it comes to practical contacts, they do not welcome them.

As for the U.S. Administration, I brought a message from the prime minister to Secretary Baker. I must say that the discussion was friendly indeed. In it we agreed on two principles that I believe are very important for the continuation of the process. One: We seek no confrontation with the United States, and vice versa. Two: Our goal must be to continue the negotiations with minimal U.S. involvement and the greatest possible involvement of the Arab and Israeli parties with each other.

[Mardor] Although the media will not show the empty Israeli chair, the Arab delegations will meet the press after arriving at the negotiating site. Do you still think they will score but a very few points? What will Israel gain from this?

[Netanyahu] Israel has one clear thing to gain: We have stressed the principle that we have to be consulted first. We are not some satellite country that can be brought over by some dictate. The Arabs view this move as a U.S. dictate, or at least that is how they would like to view it. In our discussion yesterday, the Americans made it clear to me that this is far from their intention. I believe the fact that we will show up next Monday—which no one coordinated with us as well—finally makes it clear to all that next time Israel's stands had better be taken into consideration. I personally believe— and this is the position of Israel in general—that what is needed is not the Arabs sitting idly by, waiting for the Americans to issue an ultimatum to Israel—which is how they view it—but that they show up for talks with us. There should be no difference between talks on procedure, less significant matters such as time, more important matters such as venue, or very important matters such as the substantial issues of the negotiations. They will not be able to go around the direct talks with Israel, nor will they be able to force on us conditions that we do not accept.

[Paz] Can you say this evening for certain that on 9 December direct talks with the Arabs will be held, or will their delegations not wait for Israel and perhaps go back home?

[Netanyahu] I cannot tell you what the Arabs will do. I can tell you what the Jews will do: We will be in Washington with three delegations ready to conduct negotiations starting 9 December. Naturally, the Arabs may raise their own suggestions. We did not tell them that they have to show up on Monday. We are presenting no ultimatums to the other side, just as we do not want ultimatums to be imposed on us. The Arabs can easily call me, Ambassador Shoval, or other persons—if they so choose—and tell us that Monday is not a good time for them, that they would prefer Tuesday, Friday, whatever. Each delegation separately can certainly find the appropriate arrangement to contact us and get things straight. All Israel wants is direct negotiations with the Arabs. This is accepted by the Americans. More than merely accepting it, they support it. What we need to see now is things happening. If the Arabs want to contact us, they know how.

[Mardor] Assuming that the Arabs will show patience and wait for Israel until Monday, do you not suppose that Israel will start the negotiations from a slightly inferior position then?

[Netanyahu] Absolutely not. I believe the opposite to be true. If anyone expected a media avalanche, I have already made clear....

[Mardor, interrupting] John Sununu is helping us out, is he not?

[Netanyahu] I have already said that there is a combination of events here. Furthermore, I can feel that people do not see any diabolic intentions behind Israel's desire to be coordinated with and not be dictated to. That is the most natural thing, and that is how it is largely accepted. I would not say that it is accepted as such across the board, but to a large extent it is—certainly more than we had expected it to be back in Israel. In addition, I believe that the fact that we drew a line here—true, not on a central issue—but the very fact we did draw a line is significant for the future. I felt that in my conversation with the U.S. Administration yesterday, and I have no doubt that the Arabs feel that too.

[Paz] The negotiations facilities are being opened at this time. What is your personal feeling about their entering this one-way affair?

[Netanyahu] With all due respect, I am not the one person managing the three delegations.

[Paz] You are, in fact, the most senior Israeli representative in Washington today.

[Netanyahu] That is true, but I did not come here to conduct the talks today. The delegations will do that Monday. I can tell you, however, that my feeling is better today than it was when I left Israel because, as I said, it is my impression that our basic message is getting across. We are at least 50 percent of the process, or shall we say, 50 percent of any forum that will convene, and we cannot be ignored. That message has been received.

[Mardor] Deputy Minister Netanyahu, thank you.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

Ben-Aharon on Washington Talks

TA0412184491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Shlomo Ganor on 4 December—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. Ben-Aharon, will Israel's absence from this evening's talks with the Arab countries be accepted with understanding?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, we will be forced to pay a certain price. On the other hand, I believe we have made it clear that we cannot accept the way the United States proposed to conduct matters. We wanted to give the United States enough time to prepare a framework of negotiations similar to what we insist upon—in other words, separate negotiations with each of the Arab delegations. It would also be preferable that this take place in different locations, and it would be best to hold direct negotiations without the intervention of any outside elements, including the United States.

[Ganor] What will happen next Monday, 9 December?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, all our three delegations will be in Washington on Sunday. We will be ready for negotiations from Monday onward. We have also proposed a break between each meeting of different delegations. We will negotiate these issues with the United States through our ambassador. These discussions will perhaps also continue when we get there. We heard that the Arab delegations do not want to participate in talks on 9 December. That could be their reaction to Israel's not arriving on 4 December. I do not think this is a game of table tennis. We have no intention of playing games. We are very serious about this. We want to hold real and sincere negotiations with our neighbors under conditions that can guarantee progress.

[Ganor] Will the next round of talks be limited to procedural issues, or will it also touch on substance?

[Ben-Aharon] Both. We are ready to discuss procedures and, among other things, to set the venue for the next round of talks, which we want to hold in the region. Nor do we have any problem with discussing procedural issues. [sentence as heard]

[Ganor] Mr. Ben-Aharon, does Israel insist that there be no separation of the discussions over Jordanian and Palestinian issues?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes. Why did we establish a joint Jordanian- Palestinian delegation with the consent of the United States? Because we feel—and the United States agreed with this—and, in fact, the Arab side had also agreed until now—that the issues pertaining to the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and the issues pertaining to Jordan are interconnected. That is the same population, the same ethnic community, one could say. That is also the way they describe themselves. That is why Israel wants that delegation to remain united. There will, of course, be different emphases. On issues that pertain solely to Jordan we will speak mainly to the Jordanian component of the delegation, while on issues clearly pertaining to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, we will mainly appeal to the Palestinian component. There will, however, always be a Jordanian presence.

[Ganor] In summary, Mr. Ben-Aharon, have relations between Israel and the United States been harmed by Israel's not appearing in Washington this evening?

[Ben-Aharon] Look, we regard the United States as virtually a family member. We are allies and have had very close relations for a long time; however, we also have differences. This issue is so crucial for Israel that we cannot permit ourselves to refrain from making demands we regard as crucial to our very security and future. That is what we have always done in the past, and that is how we will continue to act in the future.

[Ganor] Thank you.

Hadas: Future Venue Not Precondition

TA0512073691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Hadas, by Ya'el Dan and Yaron Wilensky—live]

[Text] [Dan] Good morning, Mr. Hadas.

[Hadas] Good morning.

[Dan] The Israeli delegation is due to arrive in Washington on 9 December, and it is presumably making thorough preparations. At this point, however, it is not at all certain that our delegation will not have to wait for the Arabs, who are now demanding another date.

[Hadas] We will wait and see. We have announced that our date of arrival is 9 December, and we will be there one day earlier. Monday morning we will see if the Arabs show up.

[Wilensky] Will we wait a day or two, if they do not?

[Hadas] We will have to wait and see what we are expected to do while we are waiting, what positions are presented. The Israeli delegations, which include representatives from various ministries, have leeway to act and decide as demanded by the situation.

[Dan] Do you know which new date they are demanding?

[Hadas] There is no other date at this point.

[Dan] Yes, but there is a demand for another date. There is even talk that they are demanding a more distant date, one that will allow the Arabs to return home and then go back to Washington again so as not to appear to be waiting for Israel.

[Hadas] As far as we know right now, there is no new date. True, I have heard that the Arabs want to postpone the talks. We will wait and see; we have not been notified of any of this. As far as we know, the Americans are still making efforts to try to hold the talks on 9 December, that is, next Monday.

[Dan] Mr. Hadas, what are we bringing to these bilateral talks, if and when they are held in Washington? A day or two ago, Ambassador Shoval told us that we are bringing substantive issues and far-reaching proposals.

[Hadas] We are definitely coming with proposals; we are ready for the talks. We will present our outlook both on future talks and, more importantly, on their framework; the latter will be broached right at the beginning. This is very important, because we all need to know what it is that we are discussing.

[Dan] This means that no substance will be discussed at this stage.

[Hadas] Yes, substance will be discussed. We will discuss a peace treaty, for instance; is this not substance? This is the first and foremost point of substance: a discussion of peace and then of the components of peace. Naturally, we will not prevent the other side from presenting its own outlook on the components. We will debate the issues, and we will not do what the Arabs are doing: trying to force their views on us and presenting these views as an ultimatum.

[Wilensky] Will Israel start the substantive talks before it is confident that the talks are to be moved to the Middle East?

[Hadas] As I said, we definitely intend to discuss the framework of talks.

[Wilensky] Will it be an Israeli condition?

[Hadas] No, there is no question of a condition; we are not going to the talks with conditions. The talks have a framework and components, and we have to arrive at an understanding on the order of discussions, because it is impossible to hold a conversation with everyone talking as if the others did not exist. We will be sitting together in order to reach an understanding, and we intend the sides to talk to each other, to conduct a real dialogue.

[Dan] Mr. Hadas, is it true that this delegation has no mandate to discuss anything beyond the proposals already raised in the autonomy talks with Egypt 10 years ago?

[Hadas] I do not think this is the situation; the statement is not at all accurate. In every negotiation and dialogue, each side raises problems and a discussion ensues. We will listen and react accordingly.

[Dan] Does the delegation have a mandate to raise new proposals?

[Hadas] The delegation definitely has a mandate to discuss the framework of talks, which is quite an extensive issue.

[Dan] Let us return to the beginning of this conversation in just one sentence: Will Israel be ready to start the talks on 10 December?

[Hadas] As I said, we will wait and see; we accept no conditions. We will see. We asked the talks to be held on 9 December, and as far as we are concerned, 9 December it is. We will see what we are told on 9 December. We are definitely not going there so as to pack and return home on the same day.

[Dan] Thank you very much, Mr. Hadas, Foreign Ministry director general.

[Hadas] Shalom.

Arabs 'Cannot Run Away' From Talks

TA0512081491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu says that Israel may have to make further steps to ensure that its message has been understood in the United States. He believes, at the same time, that the message—that Israel can no longer be ignored or dictated to on matters vital to its future —has indeed been understood by the U.S. public.

In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Netanyahu says that the Arabs should understand they are negotiating with Israel, not the United States, and that they cannot run away from direct discussions with us.

The deputy minister for public relations added that the assessment prevailing in Washington is that the Arab delegations will remain in Washington until the talks are launched.

'Surprise' Over Jordanian-Palestinian Team Issue

TA0512113191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The Israeli delegation to the bilateral talks in Washington will leave Saturday night, but it is still unclear when the talks will begin. Jerusalem believes that the talks will be held next week—if not Monday, then Tuesday. The representatives of the Arab delegations asked for a delay of several days, and if this means a postponement of only one day, then Israel will agree.

Political sources in Jerusalem said this morning that Israel will not protest if the Arabs ask to postpone the talks for a single day. If the representatives of the Arab delegations try to put the talks off for a longer period, then the Israeli delegation may put off its departure for Washington.

Even before the talks have started, surprise is being voiced in Israel over the issue of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Israel still wants the discussions to be conducted with a joint delegation, but as things look in Washington, there are two separate delegations: one Jordanian and the other Palestinian. That issue, it seems, will also be settled in Washington.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Council Convenes Emergency Session

Discusses 'Threats' to Libya

NC0512081491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0743 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—The Arab League Council held an emergency meeting of its permanent representatives this morning to discuss the U.S. threats against Libya, which are connected with the crash of a U.S. airliner over Scotland in 1988.

Representatives from all Arab countries are attending the meeting, which is being convened at Libya's request. Assistant Foreign Minister Ibrahim 'Awf is leading the Egyptian delegation.

Committee To Draw Up Resolution

NC0512102191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—The Arab League's permanent representatives ended their first meeting at 1045 today. The meeting, held under the chairmanship of 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sulh, Lebanon's ambassador to Egypt, its permanent representative to the Arab League and the chairman of the current session, discussed a draft resolution submitted by Libya's delegate Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki. It calls on the Arab League to adopt a unified stand on the U.S. threats to Libya in connection with the downing of a U.S. airliner over Scotland in 1988.

During this morning's meeting, a committee of the Egyptian, Syrian, Omani, and Libyan representatives was formed and instructed to draw up a final version of the draft resolution and make the necessary amendments to it. The draft resolution will be submitted to the Arab League Council at another meeting later today.

Statement on 'Solidarity' With Libya

NC0512114391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1122 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—The Arab League Council today called for avoiding any economic or military actions against the Libyan Jamahiriyah that are bound to further complicate the tense situation between both the United States and Britain and Libya following the accusation leveled against two Libyan nationals of blowing up a U.S. civilian plane.

This came in a statement the Arab League Council issued following its meeting today. The statement expressed solidarity with Libya and praised its willingness to help reveal the facts connected with the 1988 incident.

The council called for forming a joint Arab League-UN committee to study all the documents connected with the incident in accordance with the existing cooperation between the two organizations. It added that it is possible to accept the participation of other parties as observers, and called for providing all possible means to facilitate this committee's task.

The council called for instructing the Arab League secretary general to follow up the implementation of this resolution. The Arab League Council said it considers itself in permanent session to follow up on developments.

League Chief Discusses Libya With UK Minister

NC0512110591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1036 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign affairs, who is visiting Cairo.

They discussed the current tension affecting Libyan-U.S. and Libyan-European relations after the United States and Britain accused two Libyan nationals of blowing up a U.S. airliner in 1988.

They also discussed Arab-British relations and regional developments.

Trial of Libyan Suspects Reviewed

NC0512122691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign affairs, has announced that his country's position on the downing of the U.S. civilian airplane in 1988 and on the need to hand over the two Libyan suspects proceeds from the british and U.S. determination to combat terrorism, pursue its perpetrators, and put them on trial.

Following his meeting today with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Hogg said his country hopes Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, will comply with European and Western pressure and hand over the two Libyans so they may be put on trial in Scotland or the United States.

Hogg noted that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asked that they stand trial in an international court. The British minister said that he had explained that such a measure would be difficult because there is no international court that could hold such a trial. He added that forming a court for every terrorist operation will not end terrorism, but strengthen it.

Palestinian Affairs

Negotiator on PLO Role in Peace Negotiations

JN0512001091 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Dec 91 p 13

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpts] Dr. Nabil al-Ja'bari, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has said that the delegation cannot accept anything at the negotiations without returning to its political frame of reference, the PLO, which, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, decides what the delegation can accept.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B before leaving for Washington, he said the PLO leadership will not accept autonomy, but may accept an interim period that it alone, no one else, determines. [passage omitted]

Answering a question, he said there are American, Soviet, Israeli, and Palestinian views on resolving the Palestine question, but we will not accept any solution that fails to meet our ambitions. He said the delegation will put up a strong fight to break the barrier which the United States erected before the PLO when it broke off the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. I believe, he added, that the delegation's mission is to break this barrier, which would enable the PLO to participate in the direct talks and in the multilateral talks on an equal footing with the other Arab parties.

Noting that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue made no single step forward and remained at a low level, Dr. al-Ja'bari said that Washington was not serious in its approach to the dialogue. He explained that the United States was waiting for a chance to discontinue the dialogue, and it actually did so for extremely weak excuses. This, he added, proves that the United States rejects any relationship with the PLO, and seeks talks with Palestinians from outside the organization to impose its policy on the Palestinian people. But the negotiating delegation insists that it represented, and is representing, the PLO, and everybody has to realize this, Dr. al-Ja'bari said.

He called on President Bush's administration to resume the dialogue with the PLO immediately, to recognize the organization, and to deal with it in a responsible manner. [passage omitted]

Fatah 'Only Party' Able To Manage Self-Rule

TA0412160091 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Dec 91 pp 1, 11

[Report by Samir Sa'd-al-Din]

[Text] Tunis—Informed Palestinian circles say that Palestinian officials have received information from some European countries indicating that the United States has recently conducted studies and sounded the views of some researchers and experts, including those specializing in security affairs and ambassadors who have served in the Arab region, to find out which figures and political forces are capable of managing the Palestinian entity in the next 10 years—that is, during the period of self-rule and after it. This entity is to be linked to Jordan through a confederation. The study indicates that the Fatah Movement is the only party capable of managing this entity, for the following reasons:

The Fatah Movement includes representatives of most classes of the Palestinian people, and it influences, in practical terms, the majority of the Palestinian people. Moreover, it possesses a special flexibility that enables it to forge an alliance with organizations and leaderships that believe in the principle of change in political history.

It is capable of reorganizing its personnel, system, and organizations more effectively.

The Fatah Movement, which runs the PLO, recently passed an important test: The political forces opposed to the current peace efforts—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the faction led by Nayif Hawatimah in The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine—were not able to stop Palestinian participation in the Madrid conference. Rather, the demonstrations throughout the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in favor of the decision to participate in the peace efforts very clearly foiled demonstrations of opposition to this participation. This confirmed the ability of the Palestinian leadership to make decisions supported by the Palestinian people. Furthermore, this popular Palestinian stance neutralized the Israeli bet that the Palestinians would reject the peace efforts, which would then collapse.

Observers believe that the studies and surveys conducted by the Americans are part of an attempt to consolidate stability in the Middle East region should the current peace efforts succeed. In this context, the creation of an alternative leadership from the occupied territories that is not interested in unity with Palestinians outside the territories was also discussed.

Abu-Mazin Praises U.S. Attitude in Peace Talks

JN0412112791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Dec 91 pp 26, 21

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—A high-ranking Palestinian official has stressed the seriousness with which the United States is pursuing its attempts to reach a peaceful settlement to the Palestine question.

In an exclusive interview with AL-RA'Y, Mahmud 'Abbas, "Abu- Mazin", PLO Executive Committee member and member of the Central Committee of Fatah—the largest Palestinian resistance faction—added that indications and signs show that the United States is now seriously talking about peace. However, 'Abbas did not say whether this seriousness would continue in the future. He indicated that Washington made very important assertions to the Palestinians regarding a five-year transitional phase, with talks in the second year on the final stage for resolving pending issues in order to reach a confederation. He stressed that the Palestinian delegation did not go to the peace conference for autonomy, but only so that a transitional stage through which a confederation between two independent states—Jordan

and Palestine—can be reached. This is contained in the general framework of the U.S. letter of assurances based on which the Palestinians went to the peace conference. The PLO Executive Committee member stressed an important point in this regard; namely, that the Palestinians have not declared their acceptance of the period set by the United States. This allows for negotiations on this point once Arab solidarity is realized, which he described as an important major element.

On whether the United States would impose a solution which Israel rejects, Abu-Mazin said: The United States today, as a superpower, wants to establish a new world order. This requires eliminating all hotbeds of tension in the world, among which is the Middle East represented by the Palestine question. This question can only be resolved by giving the Palestinian people a part of their rights. The United States has expressed seriousness in what it said, but I do not know if it will continue its serious efforts toward the settlement. He revealed the contents of the U.S. letter of assurances sent by U.S. President George Bush, in which he said that all territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, are occupied territories. Therefore, their occupation must be terminated, and authority must be peacefully transferred from the Israeli authorities to the Palestinian authorities.

Replying to a question on the usefulness of the Madrid conference, the Palestinian official explained that had another Arab option within the framework of a better Arab situation been available, we would have pursued it. But it was necessary to proceed on this road from which we could get something.

Abu-Mazin described the Madrid conference as a very important station in the history of the Palestinian people. It is an important platform from which we could reach real independence.

Talking about the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid conference, he revealed that an agreement was reached with the Americans stipulating that the delegation to the conference would go within the framework of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation but it would have two heads, two speeches, two introductions, and two seats; and that the joint delegation would be split into two delegations—a Palestinian and a Jordanian one—when the bilateral talks begin. The Palestinian delegation will discuss the Palestinian dimension and the Palestinian problem, while the Jordanian one will discuss the Jordanian dimension. He noted that when the delegation was a joint one it consisted of 28 members, while other delegations consisted of 14 members only, and that when the Palestinian delegation arrives in Washington it will be completely independent.

Mahmud 'Abbas considered reports stipulating that the United States refused to grant visas to the members of the Advisory Council as premature. He explained that the Palestinian side requested the participation of advisers to the negotiating Palestinian delegation from outside the occupied territories. As far as I know, he said, they do not intend to refuse granting visas for some advisers.

Abu-Mazin stressed that the issue of Jerusalem is not negotiable. He said: The United States, which called for the peace conference, recognizes that Arab Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories. He rejected any changes to the status of Arab Jerusalem, describing this as an important and basic issue. Neither the Palestinians nor the Arabs or Muslims would accept any solution to the Palestine question that does not include Jerusalem.

The PLO Executive Committee member added: Jerusalem is divided into two parts: Arab Jerusalem and Jewish Jerusalem. We recognize this. We only want our Jerusalem to be the capital of the State of Palestine. They may do whatever they want with their Jerusalem.

Regarding the solution that could be reached through the peace conference, the Palestinian official expressed his belief that the possible solution depends on the balance of power produced by the current stage. He recalled that the Palestinians in 1947 rejected the principle of division based on UN Resolution 181. Now, they want the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem. They also want the issue of the refugees to be discussed. This will take a long time, he said, because we must go back to Resolution 242 and to its basics such as Resolution 194, which stipulates the right to compensation for Palestinians who do not wish to return.

Abu-Mazin did not hesitate to frankly express his understanding of the current stage by referring to the Arab capabilities and those of the Palestinian people. We could either accept what was presented before us or wait for a time when there would be nothing to negotiate about, he said. This is the reality, and this is what is available. There will be nothing to negotiate on when 1 or 2 million Jewish emigrants arrive in the occupied territories.

He reaffirmed that the principle on which negotiations will be held is one of land and people who live on it. He explained that Resolution 242 calls for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories. The resolution is based on the UN Charter, which stipulates the impermissibility of the occupation of other people's land by force.

He recognized, however, that the United States cannot abandon Israel. He asserted that it would not leave Israel isolated, and that Israel would continue to have a role to play—regardless of the changes that occur.

Tackling the intifadah, the Palestinian leader expressed his belief that Israel played an important role and continues to play this role even after the Madrid conference. He described the intifadah as a continuous reaction so long as the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land continues.

Abu-Mazin said that the situation in the Palestinian arena before the Madrid conference was different to

what it is after the peace conference, whether inside the occupied territories or in the diaspora. He indicated that the many opposing voices heard before going to Madrid have almost vanished.

Replying to a question on Arab solidarity, Mahmud 'Abbas did not conceal his fear of Arab disagreement on accepting or rejecting the third stage of the peace conference, which could be held in Moscow in about two weeks.

He stressed that the lack of Arab solidarity is frightening. He explained that what took place before and during the Madrid conference represented a serious, unified, and committed Arab position. I fear the loss of Palestinian rights if there is no Arab solidarity in the future, he said. He also explained that it is not in the interest of any Arab country to proceed alone without coordination with the other Arab countries, because it could lose. However, the Palestinians would sustain the biggest loss.

The Palestinian leader praised the position of the Arab Maghreb countries which had sufficiently coordinated with the PLO. Abu-Mazin expressed his belief that the participation of these countries in the peace conference is necessary because it could bolster the Palestinian position.

He described the PLO's relations with the Gulf states as normal, but that some clouds still prevail over them.

In conclusion, the PLO Executive Committee member stressed that given the option of going or not going to the peace conference, Israel would choose not to go, because peace is not in its interest. Israel insists on placing obstacles before any peaceful settlement.

AL-QUDS on Israeli 'Irritation' at Washington

TA2711183891 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Nov 91 p 7

[Editorial: "The U.S. Invitation For Attending the Bilateral Negotiations"]

[Text] The U.S. decision to invite the parties participating in the peace conference to resume the bilateral negotiations in Washington on 4 December provoked intense indignation among official Israeli circles. The reason for the Israeli indignation at Washington is not only, as it seems on the surface, because the latter issued the invitation without consulting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir prior to his meeting with the U.S. President, but also because the U.S. invitation indicates just how serious the United States is about continuing the peace process despite Israeli intransigence.

The United States had earlier consulted all the participants in the Madrid peace conference about the venue of the next round of the bilateral negotiations and had given them enough time to reach agreement among themselves over this procedural matter. But Israel's insistence on holding the negotiations in the Middle East, for reasons which the Arab parties reject at this early stage of the peace process, left no option for the Bush administration but to confront everyone with a fait accompli.

Israel, represented in its prime minister and as part of its negotiating strategy, had been accustomed to imposing its conditions. It had also been used to a U.S. endorsement of those conditions, at the expense of Arab positions. It is worth noting here that the Madrid peace conference was originally convened with a clear U.S. understanding of those conditions. Despite this, Israel spares no effort to raise political storms and exaggerate the amount of U.S. pressure on it to suggest to the Arab parties, the world, and the Israeli people themselves that the United States is biased against it, so that it may find justifications for not attending the peace conference on the basis of international resolutions.

In the end Israel will have no alternative but to accept the invitation to resume the bilateral negotiations in Washington, but it will attach a long list of conditions to its consent in order to show the cosponsors of the conference, particularly the United States, that it had made great concessions by its mere acceptance of the invitation. Therefore, it is implied, the cosponsors should display greater understanding for future Israeli intransigence over substantive issues.

Israel's irritation at Washington should not encourage the Arab parties, especially the Palestinian side, to accept Washington as a "neutral" venue for holding the bilateral negotiations, on the premise that "what is bad for my enemy is good for me." The choice of Washington as the venue for negotiations poses a great challenge to the Arab parties, both for the political propaganda and for the logistics of preparation and coordination. If the United States responds to the Israeli conditions on not granting entry visas to members of the Palestinian leadership abroad, this will be another blow to the Palestinians, who are trying to enhance their legitimate political authority.

'Arafat Addresses Fatah Revolutionary Council

JN0512100391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Dec 91 p 18

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—The Fatah Revolutionary Council convened yesterday afternoon under the chairmanship of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. The first session was limited to an introduction by President 'Arafat.

Revolutionary Council sources have said that in his introductory remarks, 'Arafat focused on the Middle East peace process since before the convening of the Madrid peace conference up to the present day.

Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] praised the current coordination between the Arab countries, while assessing his recent talks with His Majesty King Husayn, Syrian President

Hafiz al-Asad, and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. He also lauded the positive roles played by the Arab delegations during the peace conference in Madrid. He noted that similar coordination could be expected when the second stage of negotiations begins in Washington.

The Palestinian president stressed that it is not possible to move to the multilateral talks in Moscow, without making satisfactory progress on halting Israeli settlements on the occupied territories. He described this as a basic issue, since settlements constitute a major obstacle to attaining a peaceful solution.

'Arafat expressed his convection that the negotiations must be based on political and not only legal bases. He recalled that UN Resolution 181 stipulates establishing two states on the Palestinian land—an Arab and a Jewish state. Hence, the negotiations will be based on an issue that is at the core of the UN Charter; that is, the impermissibility of the occupation of land by force.

On the issue of the United States not granting visas to members of the Palestinian delegation simply because of their affiliation to the PLO, Abu-'Ammar revealed that when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met with six members of the delegation taking part in the Madrid conference, three of them were affiliated to the PLO and from the diaspora. These were Anis al-Qasim, Rashid al-Khalidi, and Kamil Mansur.

'Arafat also revealed that during his meeting with members of the Palestinian delegation, Baker praised the PLO's role in facilitating the convening of the Madrid conference.

The Revolutionary Council resumed its talks at 1900 yesterday. The council listened to a report by the secretariat and another by the Fatah Central Committee.

'Arafat—Israeli-Arab 'Common Market' Possible

PM0512095691 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 1 Dec 91 p 110

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Alfred J. Piccolo; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Piccolo] President 'Arafat, would you be willing to meet with Shamir, to shake his hand? And if that did happen, what would you say to him?

['Arafat] Yes, I am ready. Not only that, but I would clearly state that the time has come for Arabs and Israelis to bury the hatchet, that the time has come for us to turn ourselves into an example to all the Middle Eastern nations, a reference point for our young people. We must allow the peace process to mature in our hearts, ideas, and minds with new positive and constructive proposals that will benefit everyone. In short, I would say that it is necessary to think about the present and the future and to forget about the past.

[Piccolo] What specific proposals would you be willing to make to the other side?

['Arafat] The immediate introduction of an exchange program for Israeli and Palestinian students to get to know each other better; the establishment of a common market among Israel, the Palestinian state, and Jordan, guaranteed by the United States and the USSR and with UN participation.

[Piccolo] How do you envisage this hypothetical common market?

['Arafat] Open borders and cooperation at all levels—economic, social, and cultural—through the signing of a treaty that would embrace the Arab countries and Israel. This would surely bring the area general prosperity, which even the economically weaker countries would enjoy. The moment the Palestinian state is at peace with Israel and cooperation between the countries becomes a reality, the New Order proposed by President Bush will at last begin.

[Piccolo] What guarantees would you request from Shamir before starting with the coexistence process?

['Arafat] A gesture to encourage all sides, such as the immediate suspension of all settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, the release of Palestinian detainees, and the reopening of our schools and universities. These measures would certainly constitute a sign of willingness for all of us.

[Piccoli] What, on the other hand, could cause this process to fail?

['Arafat] If Israel does not stop its settlements in the occupied territories and its repressive and vengeful operations, it will be impossible to match words with deeds.

[Piccolo] But do you think that Israel is willing to leave the occupied territories? And to do so soon?

['Arafat] There is no doubt that the majority of the Israeli public accept the principle of peace in exchange for land. The main obstacle at the moment is the current policy of "Mr No"—that is, Shamir. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Street Demonstrations Banned Before Election

LD0412211791 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] On the occasion of the opening of the electoral campaign tomorrow, the Ministry of Interior of Local Communities has issued the following statement:

In conformity with the stipulations of the electoral code, political groups' and independent candidates will tomorrow begin their electoral campaign, which will last until 23 December. For this purpose, a plan has been laid down at the level of each province to present electoral programs and candidates. One must point out that all measures have been taken to respect the fixed agenda so that the election campaign can take place in the best conditions and in an atmosphere of responsibility, seriousness, and calm.

The nature of the measures taken within the framework of the general plan will allow a wide-ranging expression of ideas and programs of all political groups and independent candidates on the voters' way to the horizons of the coming vote on 26 December. Therefore, any activity or action which does not come within this framework can only hamper the good progress of the electoral march and introduce disturbances to this legal competition between the various candidates, because they [disturbances] constitute an unacceptable way of putting pressure on the voters and cause a threat to public order.

Any public demonstration which departs from these measures for the election campaign at the level of every province, especially those related to marches on public streets, are totally forbidden.

It is more important today than at any previous time to face up to any attempt aimed at obstructing the current democratic process and to fight against any excesses so as to preserve public security and that of property and people. The Ministry of Interior and Local Communities calls on everyone to demonstrate public spiritedness and high responsibility. It also calls on all these concerned basically to guarantee the holding of the legislative elections—which are the first under the multiparty system—in an atmosphere of legality, openness, and cleanness and to show a spirit of public-spiritedness and responsibility.

Egypt

British Official Comments on Mubarak Meeting

NC0412141991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1122 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Douglas Hogg, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, has described his talks with President Husni Mubarak as very important.

After meeting President Mubarak today he said: I am very grateful for such talks. We discussed two specific issues, the first dealing with the peace process which concerns us all and the second relating to the two Libyans accused of downing a U.S. plane over Lockerbie, all aspects of which were discussed.

Replying to a question on dealing with the issue, Hogg said: We believe it is very important that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi hand over these two people for trial. We want to solve this issue peacefully because we realize how grave it is, but the United States and Britian see that these two people must be brought before a court and made to answer the charges.

Asked how Egypt can help persuade Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to hand over the accused, Hogg said: I believe that all Middle Eastern countries have an interest in achieving this. These are serious charges and it is right that they should be brought to trial. If they prove innocent they will be freed; guilty, convicted; but the matter must be dealt with by tribunal.

Hogg was asked whether it was agreed they should be handed over or whether other means could be discussed. He replied: It is clear that Libya has problems on this but al-Qadhdhafi must realize that the United States and Britain are firm, believing that these two men must stand trial.

Asked whether the United States and Britain will resort to the United Nations if Libya does not hand over the two men, Hogg said: There are several possibilities but we are concentrating on persuading Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to hand over the accused as this will serve his interest and the Middle East's broader interest.

Hogg said: There is no deadline for military action should Libya fail to hand over the accused. What we seek is a swift reply from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. We want to convince him to hand over the accused. This is the least of our stand.

We strongly regret that the Israeli delegation is absent from the Washington peace talks. It would have been better for it to show up on 4 December. Bilateral talks will continue, as we all hope, but certainly not beginning today. We were hoping talks would begin and want to see them continue.

Asked to comment on the release of all American hostages and two Germans remaining captive, he said: I am very pleased that the hostages are released, but there are unresolved issues that must be settled. The people held in South Lebanon must be freed, foremost among these Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. There are Israeli pilots who must be freed and information provided on whether they are alive, particularly Ron Arad. Israel is very concerned about him and he must be returned to Israel.

Asked whether President Mubarak had promised to telephone Col al- Qadhdhafi or meet him, Hogg said: It

is clear that President Mubarak has held intensive contacts with Col al-Qadhdhafi, and has very good channels. I am sure that he will be in touch with him from time to time. I am trying to explain our position that the least we require is that the Libyan Government hand over the defendants. This is our most important request to Col al-Qadhdhafi.

Asked about Libya's request for an emergency Arab League meeting to discuss this issue, Hogg said: The evidence against the defendants can be examined. I might also brief Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid about the nature of the request to hand over these two people and all the charges against them. I will tell Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, what I have told his excellency the president, that the least we want is their release. This is in everyone's interest, ourselves and the Arab League.

He described British-Egyptian relations as very good, expressing the belief that close friendly relations between the two countries will continue.

Al-Qadhdhafi Vows To 'Sever' All Terrorist Links

LD0412221291 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2027 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Libya has promised to sever all links with terror groups including the IRA, shut down training camps and renounce terrorism, Foreign Office minister Douglas Hogg said today. But Mr Hogg, speaking in Cairo, added: "Until he does that we are going to remain unconvinced.

"We have had a number of messages from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi...that he was willing to give us information about their (Libya's) involvement with the IRA and other terrorist organisations and that the Colonel was willing to close down the camps in Libya and was willing to accept that terrorism was a policy that he will not pursue," Mr Hogg said.

The minister said he agreed during talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that using force to punish Libya for its alleged role in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight over Scotland could have damaging effects, REUTER reports. "I think there is a risk that if force is used it would put in some jeopardy the peace process...and therefore we are anxious to avoid the use of force. It is a very serious matter," he added.

Mr Hogg has also toured Algeria, Tunis and Malta explaining the British and U.S. demands that Libya should hand over the two Libyans accused of the Lockerbie bombing. Earlier, it was claimed that the two had been detained and were being questioned by the authorities in Libya. But Britain is still waiting for details from Tripoli. [passage omitted]

Probe Into Terror Allegations Urged

NC0412195091 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Dec 91 p 5

["Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Haywan]

[Text] We have heard some significant news in one week: Syria expelled certain terrorists who left for Libya, which in turn expelled them and they settled in Yemen with Sergeant 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. At the same time, 20 of the world's terrorist leaders met in Tehran. Their meeting seems to be a prelude to new terrorist operations worldwide. A number of counterterrorism experts met in Europe to confront the new wave of terrorism. International intelligence services say that there are 30,000 individuals worldwide who live on terrorism and that the budget of the terrorist gangs totals approximately $2 billion.

In 1986, the United States announced that the sources of terrorism in the world were Iran, Syria, Libya, Yemen, and Iraq, and that these countries collaborate with certain Palestinian groups. These are the same countries that used to be called the steadfastness and confrontation front that opposed Egypt and al-Sadat. This front, whose mentor was Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, worked in coordination with the Soviet Union and Israel, and all its crimes totally served Israel.

Syria gave up terrorism approximately three years ago and it no longer contributes, takes part, or keeps silent about any terrorist operations. Al-Qadhdhafi, however, persisted in terrorist operations, and we cannot forget that he laid mines in the Red Sea out of hatred for Egypt. Nowadays, al-Qadhdhafi is trying to move away from certain terrorist crimes that he committed because any crime can be attributed to him exactly as they are to the extremists in Egypt, who are accused of every terrorist crime even if they do not commit it.

No doubt, we reject any military invasion of Libyan territory and reject the accusation declared by the United States and Britain. But who can guarantee al-Qadhdhafi again. It is said that we must not let America strike at the Libyan people, but it is acknowledged that silent peoples must pay the price for their rulers' mistakes. We have paid and are still paying the price for 'Abd-al-Nasir's mistakes. The Iraqi people are paying and will continue to pay for Saddam Husayn's mistakes even after he has fallen, because the peoples who accept silence must pay the price.

We must protest any military measure against Libya and must mediate to stop any aggression. The basic issue, however, is who can guarantee al-Qadhdhafi and how can the terrorist operations that he carried out be settled? The Syrian regime stopped exporting terrorist operations three years ago and its contribution to international terrorism did not measure up to the magnitude of al-Qadhdhafi's operations.

The issue is sensitive. The world must stand against terrorism and be united to get rid of it, because it is part of the cold war that is over and a political method of revolutionary regimes which have begun to collapse all over the world. Survival is now for the fittest and for democracy.

If we let al-Qadhdhafi be exposed to punishment, the situation would be sensitive. If we let al-Qadhdhafi go unpunished, it would be neglect. If we let him continue, it would mean participation in the crime. If we look for a guarantee we will not find it. So there is only one thing to do: Demand a fair investigation into the crime, implement with the rest of the world peaceful economic sanctions, and urge against military invasion. Or will al-Qadhdhafi do it and quit? A solution that would satisfy the Libyan people and the world. Such a solution cannot be considered interference in Libya's affairs, but is a kind of quiet and just punishment. We get angry about our victims and the world has a right to get angry for its victims of international terrorism. The outcome might serve Israel, the pioneer of terrorism, but justice is better even if Israel were to benefit from what may happen.

Libya's 'Hour of Confrontation'

NC0412155191 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 2 Dec 91 p 1

[From the "Rationally" column by Chief Editor Mustafa Bakri: "The Start of the Launch"]

[Excerpts] We will not remain silent at the new conspiracy. We will not stay home and spare ourselves the fight. We will take to the streets, even if it costs us our lives. From this bastion of Arabism, a revolution will erupt that will topple all that is American and all those who are Americanized, God willing.

If the criminal George Bush embarks on striking at the bastion of the liberals in Libya, we will strike everywhere and will not let him rejoice at slaughtering another brother. The Americans will remain a target for all revolutionaries in or outside Arab territories. We will let this infidel taste defeat and expel him and his agents from our sacred land.

O honored Arabs from the ocean to the gulf; O grandchildren of Muhammad and sons of Salah al-Din and Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir: The hour of confrontation with the forces of infidelity is nearing, so be prepared to defend Islam and Arabism. Get ready to face the murderers who are slaughtering us under the cover of legitimacy and law. [passage omitted]

Let Bush establish his new world order somewhere else. This sacred land must not be desecrated by this rabid dog. The holy places on our territories will curse us if we fail to rescue it from the hands of Zionism and its agents in the Arab lands.

We are all required to move now to stop this disaster. Those who memorize even a single verse from the Koran, those who read about 'Abd-al-Nasir, Salah al-Din, and Khalid Ibn-al-Walid [7th century Islamic commander], those who care about their dignity and who cherish their homeland, and all citizens who wish to maintain their honor and integrity are required to move. We are not few, and Egypt is not a country of narcotics traffickers, Israeli Agents, and Washington followers. Egypt is a lofty bastion. Egypt is the fire that will burn all enemies. Egypt, the rebellious, is beside you, Libya. Egypt will step forward to make tomorrow. We will not let you bow and we will not let your people die under the feet of George Bush. O Libya: Your fall means the fall of us all.

Western 'Threats' Viewed

NC0412115191 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 30 Nov 91 p 18

[Husayn Fahmi's column: Toward Tomorrow]

[Text] Western and American threats to Libya are growing. The United States and Britain addressed a joint ultimatum to Libya to hand over the people accused of downing an American plane over Scotland. The ultimatum also demands that Libya disclose all information on the incident; name those involved; gives access to eyewitnesses, documents, and physical evidence; and compensate victims' families! Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has rejected the ultimatum.

Western and American threats to Libya are unsubstantiated and blatantly violate international legitimacy. Libya suggested an international investigation into the case or that it be referred to the International Court of Justice, but this was rejected by America. Then came the U.S.-British ultimatum.

There is no evidence to substantiate the ongoing threats and ultimatum, just like America's empty threats used to justify provoking Libya. They are the same threats and accusations used against Syria, Iran, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which later proved invalid and untrue!

American plane victims' families have dealt America a blow, refusing to strike at Libya and demanding acceptance of the Libyan suggestion to refer the case to the International Court of Justice to reveal the truth. America refused because it favors terrorism, threats, and international hooliganism!

From the outset the threat against Libya has been rejected by Arab governments and people as undermining Arab peace and security. Egypt introduces a new dimension because more than 1 million Egyptians work in Libya and would be endangered if America carries out its threat!

Oddly enough, America threatens as Arab-Israeli peace talks are being held under U.S. and Soviet auspices.

American intentions toward Libya, and the war ultimatum, will undoubtedly undermine these peace efforts.

It is even more bizarre that the United States, which talks about peace and settling problems peacefully, should simultaneously speak about waging a war against Libya, undermining regional peace.

Libya

Security Chief on Lockerbie, Terrorist Carlos

PM0412151791 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Dec 91 p 1

[Qasiy Salih Darwish report: "New Official in Charge of Libyan Security Reveals to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The Two Men Wanted in Connection With the Lockerbie Incident Have Been Detained and the Real Culprit Is Laughing at Us Now"]

[Text] Paris— Libya's new intelligence chief, Colonel Yusuf 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Dabri, announced yesterday that the two Libyans charged by the U.S. and British justice departments of complicity in the 1988 Pan Am bombing have been detained. In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Col. al-Dabri said that the Libyan magistrate investigating the case ordered the precautionary detention of the two men, and that their interrogation began yesterday evening.

Asked about the possibility of handing them over to stand trial before a court in Scotland, where the incident occurred, with international guarantees of a fair trial, he said: "We cannot break Libyan law. We are very confident of the impartiality of Scottish justice, but there is no provision in (international) law that compels a state to hand over its nationals to another state for interrogation, and there is no legal ground for insisting on interrogation in the place where the incident occurred. But why should interrogation in Libya be rejected so long as these two people are in their own country, where they could possibly be tried?"

In reply to another question as to what would happen if Britain and the United States insisted that they be handed over and Libya insisted on refusing to do so, he said: "In that case there should be recourse to the United Nations. We are still talking about international legitimacy, international law, and the UN Charter. If we were to depart from that, then every party would act according to its own interests." He added that "Libya has offered the United States and Britain all legal options and has invited the magistrates concerned in both countries to visit Libya and interrogate the two men, but it has received no reply so far."

Col. al-Dabri emphasized that "other parties have tried to hold Libya responsible for that incident. The first such party is the culprit himself, who is now safe and laughing at us as he sees that the charge has been aimed at the target he wanted it to be aimed at." He added: "The culprit is now free and has succeeded in diverting the charges, and he could do other things." He said that he had no idea who that party was and that if he had such an idea he would disclose it.

As for the Libyans accused by the French magistrate who is investigating the 1989 UTA bombing, they also have been placed under precautionary detention, but their interrogation has not yet started, pending the magistrate's completion of his investigation of the U.S. plane case, on which he is still gathering information.

The Libyan security official, who was appointed to his post last week, admitted that "Libya's image abroad is distorted and should be reconsidered," and that "this is a part of his new duties." His other task is "to invite other (non-Libyan) organs to cooperate to draw up a security formula that would maintain security in the region and the world." He said that he would "work for the promotion of a new world security order that would safeguard mankind and human dignity" and that he was "prepared to cooperate and provide full information for the preservation of human dignity, even that of an enemy."

Asked if Libya has stopped giving material or moral aid to any movement that employs the method of armed action and whether it no longer harbors any non-Libyan figures wanted by justice departments in any country of the world, Col. Yusuf al-Dabri said: "That change is premature. In the future we will be able to answer that question, but not at this moment."

As for reports about Libya's expulsion of Carlos early last month, he said: "I have no knowledge of that, but if these reports have not been denied officially, they are true, as the incident mentioned occurred before I assumed my duties. I personally have no knowledge that he visited Libya previously."

Asked if he had sufficient powers to purge the service, he said: "Certainly." He denied the existence of centers of powers in Libya "because the only power center is the people and the people's will." He also said that Libyan openness began before his appointment, and he confirmed that "there is a Libyan political decision to change the method of dealing with others."

Morocco

King Hassan Meets Iraqi Foreign Minister

LD0412215591 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II today received at the Royal Palace in Marrakech Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, the Iraqi foreign minister and special envoy of President Saddam Husayn to his majesty the king. The meeting was attended by Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for

foreign affairs and cooperation; and Fadil 'Abd-al-Ghafur, Iraqi ambassador to Rabat. [video shows the king sitting behind His desk facing the Iraqi foreign minister]

The Iraqi foreign minister had arrived at King Mohamed V International Airport at noon today, where he made a statement in which he said:

[Begin recording] The relations between Iraq and fraternal Morocco are—and one does not need to emphasize this here—relations between brothers. Morocco occupies a special place in the hearts of the Iraqis. My visit is within this framework, for I am carrying a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II in connection with the coordination and consultation regarding the affairs of the [Arab] nation, and to explain the great inhuman sufferings of the Iraqi people due to the continuation of the economic blockade of Iraq. [end recording]

INA Reports Talks

JN0512103791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0952 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Rabat, 5 Dec (INA)—Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy and foreign minister, has conveyed an oral message from his excellency to his brother Moroccan King Hassan II when the king received him in Rabat yesterday.

Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir had conveyed two oral messages from President Saddam Husayn to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The messages were related to prospects of brotherly cooperation and means to promote it to serve the Arab nation's issues.

Sudan

Garang Movement Splinter Group Leader Interviewed

PM0412164491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Dec 91 p 4

[Interview with Lam Akol, "a leader of the wing that has broken away from the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement," by Mu'awiyah Yasin in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Yasin] Will the current talks between your two wings prompt you to abandon your call for a separation?

[Akol] We decided to demand separation after thorough consideration. There is no such thing in politics as no going back. Be that as it may, we will not abandon separation before all influential political elements in north Sudan accept the principle of a secular regime in the country.

[Yasin] Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir warned recently that the regular army would destroy your revolution by the end of the year. How did you respond to that warning?

[Akol] I do not believe that (Gen.) al-Bashir can do anything before the end of December because there are floods in several parts of the South. But he might manage to march toward Equatoria Province because it is rocky there. [passage omitted]

[Yasin] It was noted that Colonel Garang amended the movement's charter last September to include among its goals the establishment of two states in Sudan. And he made concessions in your favor. So why the continuing dispute?

[Akol] The problem is that the Garang group used the word "or" a lot when listing the options available, and this reflects opportunism. It would have been proper for it to maintain the position that it adopted when the movement was launched in 1983—that is, the call for a unified Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Yasin] Many of the northern Sudanese who knew you were shocked by your demand for separation despite the fact that you lived in the North for a long time.

[Akol] Politics is not based on personal views. I am a unionist and will remain so, but unity will not materialize except in a secular state. This is why politically I tend toward the practical, not the ideal. Why do these shocked people fear separation? It will not mean estrangement between North and South. It will be better than the present situation. This is because every government that seizes power in Khartoum demands the application of the Islamic shar'iah—which means the indefinite continuation of the war. This is why we have demanded a separation coinciding with a binding agreement on freedom of movement, trade, and cooperation in various fields.

Northerners and Southerners should not fear separation, because with the passage of time common factors prompting unity will emerge, just as happened in Yemen and Germany.

[Yasin] What is really happening in Juba?

[Akol] Things have developed in two directions. Juba was shelled on Wednesday and Thursday of last week, and at the same time Sudanese Army forces moved toward the Torit area but did not advance far. What was said about our cooperation with Garang to attack Juba is untrue. We are willing, however, to cooperate with his forces to protect the areas which we liberated as one movement. If these areas are attacked, we will be there as an alternative leadership to defend them. [passage omitted]

Garang Movement Official Notes Talks Progress

PM0412162691 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Nov 91 p 4

[Telephone interview with Garang movement official Deng Alor in Nairobi by Sayyid Ahmad Khalifah in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] The Garang movement and the faction breaking away from it led by Lam Akol have agreed to suspend statements and media campaigns between the two sides during the current negotiations, the fifth round of which was held in Nairobi yesterday under the sponsorship of the Kenyan Council of Churches and other observation bodies.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT telephoned the movement's office in Nairobi and conducted an interview with Deng Alor, a Garang representative, about the course of the negotiations. He said: "In principle, it can be said that the negotiations have entered their fifth day and are proceeding well and making progress."

[Khalifah] Could you provide any general clarifications about the issues being discussed, the nature of the agenda, and how much power is being given to the leaders of the two sides?

[Alor] It has been agreed since the beginning of the negotiations not to provide any clarifications or to make any statements about these meetings until a final statement is issued.

[Khalifah] How many items are there on the agenda?

[Alor] Five, and I hope you will not ask me about them, because that is confidential. [passage omitted]

[Khalifah] Did the negotiations deal with the offensive launched against Juba by the movement's forces?

[Alor] No, the negotiations did not deal with that matter, and the operations in Juba are continuing exactly as planned. [passage omitted]

[Khalifah] Is there any link between the Sudanese Government's request to postpone its negotiations with you in Nigeria and the present negotiations between the two wings of the movement?

[Alor] The reasons for the request by Lieutenant General al-Bashir's government to postpone the negotiations indefinitely are connected with the problems within the movement because the government has been, and is still, working on the assumption that the development of these problems would lead to the total weakening of the movement by January or February of next year.

[Khalifah] How do you see that assumption in view of their own internal problems?

[Alor] It is naive. In fact, the offensive against Juba and the expansion of the operations in Kurdufan and Darfur constitute a practical response to that erroneous view of Khartoum.

[Khalifah] The government describes what is happening in Darfur as further armed robberies and does not admit that your activities have reached there.

[Alor] The Kurdufan operations are led by Yusuf Kuwwah and the Darfur operations by 'Abd-al-'Aziz Adam Hulw; they are two of the movement's historical leaders.

[Khalifah] Has the cease-fire been implemented comprehensively, or are there any violations?

[Alor] The cease-fire has been implemented carefully and comprehensively, and each side has retained its known positions. This is continuing as agreed. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Receives al-Qadhdhafi Envoy, Message

LD0312193291 Tripoli JANA in English 1442 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Tunis, 3 Dec JANA—President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the sisterly Republic of Tunisia yesterday received Ibrahim Muhammad Bakkar, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice.

During the reception the secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice conveyed to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali a message from the leader of the revolution.

Ben Ali Sends Special Envoy to Libya

LD0412122291 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] His excellency the president this afternoon met at the Palace of Carthage with Justice Minister Abderrahim Zouari in the presence of Prime Minister Hamed Karoui. The head of state sent the justice minister as a special envoy carrying a message to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, concerning consultations between the two fraternal countries and within the efforts that his excellency the president will make within the framework of the endeavors aiming at dealing with the latest development in the region.

Shamir Vows No 'Concessions' on Land for Peace

TA0412190391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1750 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to a gathering of Irgun veterans in Binyeney Ha'uma in Jerusalem—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dear friends, we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Irgun in the midst of a political struggle for peace and the security of our homeland. The heirs to the Irgun heritage, who were elected in democratic elections by the people in Israel to lead the country today, are loyal—today as before—to their faith in Greater Israel [applause]. They adhere to the political teachings they learned from their leaders, Herzl and Jabotinsky, God bless their souls. They cannot conceive of giving up on Jerusalem, Judaea and Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights even when they work day and night for peace. [applause]

The people who grew up in an atmosphere of a struggle for freedom, who struggled to free Eretz Yisra'el, are unable to accept political plans the end of which is abandoning parts of the homeland, when every stone and corner of Eretz Yisra'el is a part of their very being and soul. [applause] The people who, under the worst of conditions stood up against forces far larger than themselves and won, will not be tempted to take the easy way of surrendering to world leaders and abandoning their holiest principles.

[passage indistinct] ...the State of Israel was established 43 years ago, and the state has to march forward following the footsteps of its founders and warriors [applause], while making no false moves, such as concessions on main issues. We continue building, fortifying, and consolidating the state. [passage omitted]

Settlement Issue To Highlight Negotiations

TA0412202891 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Dec 91 p 10

[Article by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Autonomy in Return for Settlements]

[Text] A look at the problems casting a shadow over the opening of bilateral talks in Washington today explains why the United States actually considers the talks more of a burden than an asset. The bilateral talks comprise all the fears, prejudices, and hatreds that have been an integral part of the Middle East conflict from its very inception. One must be an indefatigable optimist to bet on the chances of success of the negotiations at this stage. The real aim of Bush and Baker is merely to launch this stage symbolically and to then abandon it in favor of something they are really keen on—the regional conference.

While the differences between the various parties will be at their most prominent in the bilateral stage, the regional conference embodies the mutual interests, the hopes, and the real horizons of the "new order" in the Middle East. If there is any hope for a breakthrough in the peace process, it is to be found at the regional conference.

Had the Americans been able to skip the bilateral talks completely, they would have done so gladly; however, they require this stage to delineate the general outlines of a solution to the Palestinian problem, without which the regional conference can bear no fruit. The United States, however, does not intend to wait until the end of the bilateral negotiations; it will quickly launch the regional talks. Washington will focus most of its pressure and attention on the regional conference, partly in the hope of using this venue to improve the political climate in the Middle East, which is a prerequisite for the implementation of U.S. interests in the region. Such an improvement will also make it easier for the parties to overcome their differences in the bilateral talks.

In principle, it was Shamir who proposed the bilateral track, after he—together with others—had derailed the Cairo dialogue. It would seem that Shamir should support the U.S. policy, which is based on a strategy that allocates greater significance to the interests of Israel and the Arab countries, at the expense of the Palestinians. The postponement of the Israeli delegation's arrival in Washington, however, proves that Shamir sees things differently. The Americans feel frustrated by Shamir's positions because they believe that their own positions are tailored to Israel's needs. As they see it, the results they want to achieve through the political process serve Israel's interests more than those of the Arabs. Yet, Shamir's government blocks their every move and threatens the entire political process, though it is fully aware that the alternative is much worse and is even dangerous for Israel's future.

Shamir discovered Palestinian pragmatism in Madrid. He then reached the conclusion that he could close a deal with the Palestinian delegation that could even meet the exacting criteria of the Likud convention. In other words, Israel will give the Palestinians a comprehensive autonomy, and in return the Palestinians will agree to a continuation of settlement activity. This readiness to give the Palestinians autonomy, and even in the sweeping sense of the word, "almost a state," is at the root of the differences in the Israeli Government between Shamir and his confidants on one hand, and on the other, the right-wing, nationalistic wing of the coalition, which regards autonomy as the corridor to a bona fide Palestinian state.

On the surface, there is a common denominator between Shamir and the Americans, and even between Shamir and some of the important Palestinian groups in the territories and the PLO; the political process ostensibly stands on a firm basis. However, Shamir had hoped to find a common position with the Arab world against the Palestinians prior to the Madrid conference, only to see those hopes dashed at the conference table; the same fate awaits his current hopes for reaching an agreement with

the Palestinians. Shamir is willing to give the Palestinians autonomy if they accept the Israeli Government's settlement policy and the principle of a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty. In other words, Shamir is seeking to turn the PLO and the Palestinian delegation into a "new village league" [political groups in the territories established after 1977 which sought peaceful coexistence with Israel and were branded as quislings], which would give the Palestinian seal of approval to the Likud's policy. The guideline for Shamir's policy on all aspects is to continue to hold on to Eretz Yisra'el, and he is willing to pay a high price to anyone who permits him to do so. Al-Asad would have gotten the Golan Heights back without any fuss had he been willing to pay a high price. If the Palestinians accept Israel's continued control over Eretz Yisra'el, they will immediately receive autonomy, even unilaterally—without any need to hold these exhausting bilateral and multilateral talks.

What frustrates the United States is the excessive significance Shamir allocates to the settlement policy, up to the point where it totally overrules any other consideration or interest. The United States is willing to formulate a nontraumatic solution to the settlements—unlike the destruction of Yamit—that will not require a total evacuation of the West Bank. The pragmatic wing of the PLO and the Palestinian delegation would also countenance this, but neither is willing to accept what half of the Israeli people reject: the aggressive and provocative settlement policy pursued by the Israeli Government.

It seems that the Palestinians are familiar with Shamir's basic position. It should be noted that there is a hidden, internal disagreement within the Palestinian delegation, which also reflects an internal argument inside the PLO. The argument is between the pan-Arabic approach, which rejects any separate agreements with Israel and believes that any progress in the political process must be coordinated with the entire Arab world, and the separatist approach, which asserts that the Arab world has not proven its steadfast concern over the Palestinian problem and believes that if the Likud has opened a window of opportunity, then it should be exploited.

However, even the wing that has adopted the latter approach is unwilling to accept Shamir's demands prima facie and believes that a serious Palestinian approach to the negotiations with the Likud government could bring about changes in the Israeli positions later on in the process. On the eve of the departure to Madrid, Dr. Sari Nusaybah, speaking at al-Hakawati theater in East Jerusalem, said that the Palestinians' serious participation in the political process could bring the Israeli left wing back to power. Perhaps Nusaybah secretly believes that a change may yet take place in the Likud, and for the same reasons. The Palestinian people, however, consider this extremely improbable.

This week I met an American journalist who interviewed Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir back when he was still in charge of the Foreign Ministry's research department in Amman. This was when no one would have predicted that he would one day head the ministry. The journalist was surprised to find Abu-Jabir full of praise for Shamir. Many Israelis would perhaps differ with Abu-Jabir's assessment, but the journalist reported him as saying that the Israeli prime minister radiated charisma. He was impressed by Shamir's forceful nature and expressed the hope that agreements could be struck with Shamir, of all people. This could be the reason behind Abu-Jabir's sudden appointment as foreign minister. He had not concealed his opinion of Shamir at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, and the king had decided to give him the opportunity to prove the validity of his views.

This only goes to show that both the Jordanians and the Palestinians understand that the chances of the left returning to power in Israel are very slight. At any rate, Labor's performance on political issues during the two years it led the unity government, as well as when it was in charge of the war against the intifadah, did not greatly impress the Palestinians and the Jordanians. It should be remembered that the principle of the joint delegation was decided upon by King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat when Shim'on Peres was prime minister. Peres failed to grasp the hand that was stretched out to him.

This perception is what drove the Palestinians in Madrid not to wait for the Syrians' agreement to meet with the Israeli delegation, but to attend the scheduled meeting together with the Jordanians. The fact that the joint delegation was headed by the "pro-Israeli" Abu-Jabir only made things easier for them.

In any event, the internal Palestinian debate goes on. In Madrid, those who were willing to rush arrangements with the Likud had the upper hand. It seems that in the preparations for the Washington talks, the other side wanted to balance the powers. This is the meaning of the effort "to coordinate" with the Arab world, mainly with Syria, in which the Palestinians were engaged on the eve of the Washington talks. 'Arafat was not pleased with the developments in Madrid, in which the differences between the Jordanian and Palestinian stands and those of the Syrians were pointed out. Therefore, he instructed the head of the Palestinian delegation, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, to go to Damascus. The Palestinians in East Jerusalem also waited for the Syrians to finish formulating their stand befire delivering their final reply to the Americans.

The real test of the Palestinian intentions will be the manner in which they present the issue of settlements in Washington. It is clear to all that this issue will top the agenda, and that they will demand with great determination and conviction that the settlement drive stop. The question is what they will do to move this issue toward a solution. If indeed they are coordinated with Syria, it would mean that, at least in the Washington talks, they do not seek an arrangement with Shamir. If in Washington they display independence, however, and drag the Syrians to more pragmatic stands, Shamir may well be encouraged. Alas, Shamir might misinterpret this as well:

The Palestinians will never accept the settlement policy the way he understands it, but will be willing to consider facts in the field and will not press for a traumatic solution. Those who favor this policy evidently believe that a very pragmatic attitude will break the "iron wall" around the Likud. There are signs that the Americans themselves have lost all such hope, but if the Palestinians are disappointed, grave consequences will follow.

One who apparently does not approve of her fellow delegates' pinning hopes on reaching an agreement with the Likud is Hanan 'Ashrawi. Unlike al-Husayni and Nusaybah, 'Ashrawi stresses the need for inter-Arab coordination, and we have written here on previous occasions about the pro-Jordanian aspect of that stand. She is also far more vehement in her opposition to the settlements, and uses sharp expressions—not used by al-Husayni and Nusaybah—such as "theft."

It is no accident that it was 'Ashrawi who broke the ice with Jordan and went for the first coordination meeting there. Another aspect of the line she has adopted is seen in the manner she relays all her demands of Israel through U.S. channels. As far as it is known, her interlocutors in the U.S. Consulate made it clear to her that although the United States is one of the sponsors of the conference, it is not a mailman for Palestinian correspondence with Israel, and that they can address it directly.

President Mubarak did not hide his displeasure with 'Ashrawi in his famous interview with Ehud Ya'ari [on Israeli television]. This is probably the main reason for the Palestinian refusal to take the file of the autonomy talks from Egypt. As will be remembered, Nabil Sha'th was supposed to do this for them. Attempting to appease angry Mubarak, 'Arafat asked that the two Egyptian diplomats who conducted the autonomy talks with Israel, 'Izzat 'Abd-al-Latif and Ahmad al-Shash, be sent to Washington so as not to make Egypt appear as one who, to no avail, conducted negotiations with Israel for the Palestinians.

The arguments in the delegation and about its composition are about personal tensions, but also about the principles of strategy and tactics. The debate whether to enter a deal with Shamir is but one of them. This debate becomes sharper in view of the fact that all the Arab parties act as if Syria is only "putting on a show," after having, in fact, reached a basic agreement with Shamir and needing the Palestinians as an umbrella.

The U.S. demand of 'Ashrawi to stop using the United States as mailman to Israel could indicate that they are willing to walk more than an extra mile toward Israel, dragging along the Syrians and the Palestinians. They may be willing to do this, but the problem is that whenever it seems that they get close enough to Shamir to satisfy him, he digs new trenches.

Levi on Peace Talks, Diplomatic Ties With PRC

TA0512065291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister David Levi says that the Israeli delegations will leave for meetings with Arab delegations in the United States on Saturday night. All the delegations will conduct simultaneous talks on the same day.

Minister Levi cautioned against creating the impression that a rift exists between us and the United States. It does not serve anyone and endangers the peace process, he said.

Levi added that Israel is assisting the UN secretary general's effort to complete a deal for the release of our POW's and MIA's by the end of this month.

The foreign minister made these remarks in a meeting with supporters in Qiryat Shemona last night. He was heard by our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

[Begin recording] [Hecht] Last night, Foreign Minister David Levi took care to be statesmanlike: He did not utter a single direct word against the prime minister, the defense minister, or any other minister. His followers, however, did not require a guide to be able to substitute the foreign minister's question marks with names. As one supporter said: Yitzhaq flexed a muscle, and now it is up to David to extract the country from the quagmire.

David Levi asked: Why was it necessary to create the impression of a rift between Jerusalem and Washington? Whom does it serve?

[Levi] It will be a tragedy if in the name of peace and the joint initiative, we damage the ties between the two countries, God forbid, instead of making peace. We must not allow such a situation to happen. [passage omitted]

[Hecht] The foreign minister revealed that full diplomatic relations would be established with China very soon.

[Levi] No one is concealing it; everything is being done openly. Representations exist both here and there; the Chinese and Israeli foreign ministries, as well as the Chinese foreign minister and I, maintain open communications channels. [end recording]

Shamir—No Link in U.S. Loan Guarantees, Ties

PM0412155291 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 3 Dec 91 p 11

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Lluis Bassets; date, place not given]

[Text] Jerusalem—Israel is not relinquishing its principled stance, but it does intend to go ahead with the negotiations until it attains the objective of peace and creates the conditions for a Middle East in which Arabs and Israelis can calmly coexist. This is Israeli Prime

Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's position. This interview was recorded shortly before the Jerusalem government announced its acceptance of 4 December as the date for the resumption of negotiations.

[Bassets] Prime Minister, there is some malfunction in your personal dealings with President Bush.

[Shamir] That is not true, no, no. First, I do not attach much importance to personal relations between statesmen or politicians because, after all, we are discussing political stances crucial to our country's future. The problems that we have to broach concern Israel's very existence.

[Bassets] You met with representatives of the Jewish community in the United States. Do you think they have changed their attitude toward your government? How do you view the recent opinion polls, from which it emerges that 88 percent of these leaders are in favor of a territorial compromise in the West Bank and Gaza?

[Shamir] I was received by the U.S. Jewish community with extraordinary enthusiasm. I do not want to exaggerate, but I have never before encountered such enthusiasm. There is still talk about a certain minority that dissociate themselves from the Jewish community's overall support for my stances. They all express genuine, broad, and profound support for Israel.

[Bassets] But did you read the opinion poll?

[Shamir] No. But U.S. experts assured me that it is of little importance set against the welcome that I received from the majority.

[Bassets] U.S. loans to facilitate further immigration are expected to be discussed at the end of January. Do you think you can guarantee some progress in the peace negotiations before then? Do you think Israel could offer a freeze on the colonization of the territories?

[Shamir] The credit guarantees issue is a very important one for us, because of the great migratory tide of Soviet Jews arriving in Israel. No country, even among the strongest, could absorb so many people in such a short time. We need external help for a while. This explains why we attach so much importance to bank guarantees, which in any case cost the American treasury nothing, because that is all they are—guarantees—and Israel always repays its debts, especially to the United States. The United States eventually will decide in our favor. Traditionally, in our relations no linkage has been established between aid offered and the development of political relations. We support this principle and believe that eventually this will be the American position, too.

[Bassets] But the United States also has to satisfy the demands of its Arab allies. Are you not afraid that a gesture will be demanded, albeit discreetly?

[Shamir] We will not alter our principled stance. We will not allow a link to become established between these two issues. In any case, we are involved in peace negotiations with the Arabs on all the problems that divide us. So all these problems will be discussed, and all the decisions will be made during the negotiations.

[Bassets] What worries you more: to appear like someone relinquishing a portion of Israeli territory, however small, or like someone missing a historic, perhaps unique, opportunity for peace in the region?

[Shamir] I do not think about what role could be attributed to me in the history of Israel. My job is to defend my people's interests in the best possible way. Peace with the Arab world is also one of Israel's vital interests. The important thing is to struggle to achieve peace and to defend our interests. This is my policy.

[Bassets] Do you think that your generation, which experienced the resistance and all these wars, will see and conduct the new phase in peace with the Arab world?

[Shamir] Yes, I think that we can achieve conditions that will make it possible for us to coexist with the Arab world.

[Bassets] With you leading the government?

[Shamir] That is another matter. We are a democratic country.

Milo Views Inner Cabinet Decision on Peace Talks

TA0412180291 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Interview with Police Minister Roni Milo by Rafi Reshef on the "'Erev Hadash" program—live]

[Text] [Reshef] Good day, Police Minister Milo.

[Milo] Good evening.

[Reshef] What led the Inner Cabinet to decide eventually that all the delegations would leave for Washington together after all, and that Israel would even agree to concurrent talks?

[Milo] First of all, the Inner Cabinet's original position was that we would commence the talks on 9 December. That is nothing new. Without getting into the details of Inner Cabinet meetings, something I do not intend to do, I can only say that our plan and decisions have been consistent and that today's decision was totally compatible with what had been decided upon previously: to arrive in Washington on 9 December and continue the negotiations.

[Reshef] I find it a bit difficult to see the consistency you speak of. I understand that at the beginning of today's Inner Cabinet session only the foreign minister held the view that all the delegations should leave together. The Inner Cabinet's earlier position was different; it had been decided to send the delegations separately, one after the other.

[Milo] I do not know which Inner Cabinet you are a member of, but at the Inner Cabinet I attend and whose decisions I am familiar with—although I did not participate in last week's session, as I was in mourning—there had been no decision to stagger the talks or to send the delegations at different times. The decision was to start the talks on 9 December, and that is what we indeed shall do.

[Reshef] First of all, I would like to say that we all share your grief. Now, perhaps the papers do not know what they write about, but I most definitely understood the reports to mean that the delegations would be sent on separate days and not together.

[Milo] I also read in today's paper that in Deputy Minister Netanyahu's meeting yesterday with Dennis Ross, he informed him that the delegations would arrive together on 9 December. The fact is that no additional meetings, Inner Cabinet sessions, or discussions were required. That was the decision that was made, and that is the decision we will uphold. Anyway, I do not consider that the focal point. I think the most important thing is that in Washington we sit down and talk about progress toward peace. That is the goal of the State of Israel today.

[Reshef] Mr. Milo, will we deal only with procedure in this round of talks, or will we also deal with substance?

[Milo] It is hard to say at this stage; I believe, however, that the main part of the talks will be devoted to establishing the procedures for the continuation of the process. There may also be some kind of initial progress on the other issues, which are very far-reaching and complex. I would like to stress that we must remember that the State of Israel initiated this peace process.

[Reshef] Yes, but when you assert that it is hard to say at this stage, what does the question of whether we will only discuss procedure or substantive issues actually depend upon?

[Milo] First of all, one must bear in mind that we are not the only party to the negotiations. To make clear that we are equal partners, at the very least, we first had to make it clear that we would not accept dictates. That is why we did not attend the talks today, but rather announced that we would arrive on 9 December; we wanted to preclude the impression that anyone can dictate to the State of Israel the way these negotiations will be held. Today, I can state with full confidence that the way the talks develop will depend to a great deal on both parties, both on Israel and the other side. Keeping this in mind, I most certainly believe that we can make progress, through direct talks, both on matters of procedure, and especially on the substantive issues, which are of the utmost importance. We want these talks to lead to peace.

[Reshef] Do we expect all the delegations to wait for us in Washington until 9 December?

[Milo] I hope they will wait. At any rate, we have already heard that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will wait and hold talks. I must also admit that I pin the greatest hope on that delegation. I think we have virtually no conflict with Jordan nor any difficult problem to resolve. As for the Palestinians, we have the basis of the Camp David accords: autonomy. I think we can make very promising progress on that basis and eventually reach agreement with our partners in the negotiations. As for the Syrians, I hope they will also be there to hold negotiations; I must admit, however, that I feel less optimistic. I have just come from a Knesset debate on the issue of Syrian Jewry—and that is why I was late, and I would like to apologize—and on the horrendous cruelty of the Syrian regime and its security apparatus toward the Jews. I think we had better know exactly with whom we are dealing and exercise extreme caution during the negotiations. I am, however, optimistic in everything pertaining to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. As for the Syrians, I am hopeful, but my hopes are tempered by a lot of doubts.

[Reshef] Thank you, Minister Milo.

Editorial on 4 Dec No-Show at Peace Talks

TA0412124091 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Dec 91 p 2

[Editorial: "They Are Waiting for Us"]

[Text] Once again there is proof that the Arabs have long ago stopped saving us. On the contrary, we have been saving them for quite some time now.

Instead of us reporting to the direct talks and them staying at home, just like Syria did in Geneva in December 1973, it is the Arab delegations that will be waiting for us while we stay home. In the eyes of the world, it is not them but us who will be seen as the opponents of the peace talks.

Even Binyamin Netanyahu, the current national public relations official, will not be able to repair the informational and political damage which our government inflicted on us with its own hands. At the sight of our empty seats in Washington and of the Arab delegations waiting for us in vain, who in the world will believe that our government is committed to the peace process?

Our government will be offering the Arabs a very precious gift on a golden tray by topping it with the establishment of the Nahal Brigade outpost at the Tapuah Junction at this particular time.

Shamir Warns NRP Against Causing Political Crisis

TA0412191191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Education Minister Zvulun Hammer held a meeting with Prime Minister Shamir, but no progress was made in solving the crisis of the special budgetary allocations. Shamir told Hammer the National Religious Party [NRP] is quibbling over the problem, and could cause a government crisis. Hammer stressed his party's

aim was not to bring down the government; all its intention was, was to determine normal administrative procedures.

Sources close to Shamir told Israel Radio ways were being sought to mobilize the majority for the budget proposal, despite the NRP stand.

Arens Discusses Military, Political Issues

TA0512115391 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 4 Dec 91 pp 16, 17, 18, 19

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Yosef Argaman and Yuval Natan "at the end of the week;" place not given]

[Excerpts] [BAMAHANE] Can you clarify your 22 November statement, following the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee meeting, in which you said: "The Middle East is approaching the era of nuclear weapons. Nuclear technologies should be prevented from reaching Libya and Iran?"

[Arens] Currently, in the wake of the Gulf war, when the world received information on Iraq's nuclear capability and what it managed secretaly to achieve, there is greater awareness of the possibility that countries such as Iran or Libya may have achieved nonconventional capability as a result of a concerted, probably clandestine, effort. That is what I meant when I said the Middle East was marching toward a nuclear era.

[BAMAHANE] Is the "real threat" to Israel coming from peripheral countries, such as Iran, Pakistan, or perhaps other Muslim countries with nuclear capability that may break away from the USSR, even as we are talking peace with our immediate neighbors? We heard last week that Syria will receive a nuclear reactor from the PRC.

[Arens] There is indeed room for concern, mainly because these countries are not Luxembourg or the Netherlands, but countries with totalitarian regimes professing hostility toward Israel, countries with a history of investing great resources in acquiring military power. Against the backdrop of what happened in Iraq, there is, as I said, room for concern.

[BAMAHANE] There has been explicit talk about an Islamic bomb.

[Arens] I assume that one such bomb already exists in Pakistan.

[BAMAHANE] Will Israel's security doctrine now have to address countries that are further away?

[Arens] Definitely. We must address this danger: First, because it is a great danger, as nonconventional weapons are involved; second, because this is a danger we may face from far away. It is easier to confront our close neighbors, and we have already gained experience in how to deter them or react when they attack us. But today we are definitely preparing for the danger of what are, in our terms, long-range weapons which may be launched against Israel and for the possibility that someone may think about the option of outfitting these missiles with all sorts of warheads. The supplementary defense budget we have demanded is based on that new deployment, which we must include in our multiyear plan.

[BAMAHANE] Can you give us some details about the multiyear program in this context?

[Arens] Not too many details, for obvious reasons. But here we are talking about one type of risk for which we must prepare, in my opinion, not by thinking in terms of only one response; rather, we must contemplate preparations founded on a number of dimensions, such as improving our intelligence-gathering capability in remote areas or developing intercepting tools, such as the Arrow, for example. We will also improve our existing capability of hitting launchers. We are also investing resources in the defense of the home front.

[BAMAHANE] Are you talking about an Israeli spy satellite?

[Arens] We have already exhibited our ability to put a satellite into orbit before. We have done this a number of times with experimental satellites. That is why no one should be surprised if, one day, we station a spy satellite as well in space.

[BAMAHANE] If war broke out today, would the home front be as exposed to surface-to-surface missiles as it was during the Gulf war?

[Arens] We were motivated by political considerations during the Gulf war, as everyone knows, as well when we decided what to do and what not to do, when to do it and when not to. Therefore, no one should conclude from the Gulf war that the home front is vulnerable and that we are—or were—incapable of reacting and neutralizing the enemy. It is a known secret that at that time, we were already prepared to launch an operation when we saw fit, but the war came to an end. Indeed, some think that it is a pity it ended when it did and that it would have been better had it continued somewhat longer, allowing us to carry out our operation. In any event, our capability now is even better than at that time, and we are improving it constantly within the framework of the various components of the preparedness I mentioned earlier.

[BAMAHANE] What do you really think about the way the Gulf war ended?

[Arens] I do not think it advisable that I, as defense minister, should criticize U.S. steps. All in all, the Americans did a job that was very important for us and the region as a whole.

[BAMAHANE] But Saddam is still in power....

[Arens] I presume the Americans still hope that this will not be true forever, although for the time being he is there.

[BAMAHANE] With your permission, let us move to the peace talks with our neighbors: Are you optimistic?

[Arens] They say an optimist is a pessimist with a historical perspective. I think that in the case of the Middle East, this is definitely correct. When I view the peace process in a historical light, there is no doubt in my mind that there is room for optimism.

[BAMAHANE] Do you think the Arab approach intrinsically has changed?

[Arens] I definitely think that acceptance of Israel's existence is gradually developing in the Arab world, albeit too slowly. I also think that this is manifest in every conceivable sphere. Egypt, which for 30 years was not prepared to sit with us, finally did sit and sign the peace treaty. The Syrians, who for 43 years have not been ready to sit and talk peace with us, are currently declaring that they are ready. This is not to say that they actually accept peace, but the declaration itself is also something. The Palestinians, who for years said that there is no peace with Israel and it must be annihilated, in the past few years shifted to a position that says: We are ready to recognize Israel's existence, but a Palestinian state should also be established alongside Israel. Today they say: We are ready to discuss autonomy first, as per Israel's demand.

[BAMAHANE] To what do you attribute this process?

[Arens] I believe all this is based on our military prowess and on the growing awareness that Israel cannot be eliminated and must be accepted. Admittedly, this does not involve the entire Middle East or Arab world; we have already discussed this, and there may be regressions. Still, from a historical perspective, this is the general direction.

[BAMAHANE] The peace talks opened in Washington this week. The process is on its way, although delayed. What time frame can we talk about before a settlement is reached?

[Arens] It is hard to predict. In 1977, with Egypt, it took more than a year, possibly 18 months from when Begin initiated the process until the March 1979 peace treaty was signed. I would not say that this should be taken as a fixed model or that this time it should also take 18 months, but I would say that one should think in such terms. Nonetheless, one must bear in mind that there was a case in which we had signed a peace treaty with Lebanon after the Peace for Galilee war, but it was torpedoed. One must also keep in mind that there is no rule that says that by starting negotiations, you automatically guarantee an agreement. There have been many cases throughout history when negotiations began, but no agreement was reached.

[BAMAHANE] With which party do we stand a chance of reaching an agreement fastest?

[Arens] I would say that, in relative terms, the greatest chance for reaching an agreement is with the Palestinians. That is because I believe the Palestinians have an incentive to reach an agreement with us. This is also one explanation for the fact that they moved from a very extremist position to a less extreme one and from there to a still more moderate stand. Today they are prepared to discuss negotiations within the Camp David framework.

[BAMAHANE] How do you explain that?

[Arens] They are in a bad state, they have suffered a lot, and I think that today many of them—though not all—think that a settlement with Israel is preferable to perpetuating the status quo. There are others, however—let there be no misunderstanding about that—and they are quite numerous within both the population at large and the organizations that purport to represent that population, who oppose the peace process and declare that they will do everything to sabotage it through violence. When you look at the meetings that take place nowadays in Judaea and Samaria, in which the delegates who attended the Madrid conference report on the proceedings, you notice that many of these meetings are characterized by violence and great opposition and that the delegates are not allowed to talk at all.

This whole business is not a simple matter. All in all, though, I think the majority of the population is interested in a settlement. As I said, there is already agreement on the framework for the preliminary arrangement, which is autonomy based on the Camp David accords.

[BAMAHANE] Is there any initial agreement also with Syria?

[Arens] Right now we have no agreement with Syria on the framework for the settlement. Syria may not even have any special reason to reach one. It can live without peace with Israel; it is not afraid of an Israeli attack, even in the absence of a peace agreement with Israel. The Syrians may tell themselves: We can live without one, perhaps live even better. After all, to achieve results, you need two sides with strong motivation. Israel is highly motivated in that direction. If someone doubts this, let him visit one of the military cemeteries. There he will understand how great our motivation is. I think the Palestinian population is similarly motivated.

[BAMAHANE] The Palestinian representatives we are negotiating with today were not elected democratically. If we sign an agreement with them, will it be binding on the entire Palestinian nation?

[Arens] This is problematic. In the Israeli Government's May 1989 peace initiative, which was actually the starting point for the current process, we called for elections among the Palestinian population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to determine who will represent it in negotiations with us. When I saw that the United States was trying to lead in the direction of a Palestinian representation that would be agreed upon but not

elected, I told Baker that I believe an elected representation is preferable because it would have the people's mandate. When the delegation was consolidated on the basis of agreement, I thought it unwise for us to block it.

[BAMAHANE] Incidentally, how do you view the U.S. modus operandi in arranging the peace talks?

[Arens] I think that the impressive ceremony we saw in Madrid might not have been held without the United States. Our call for direct negotiations proved insufficient. The Arabs failed to show up. The Americans offered them incentives.

Unfortunately, there are many more cases in the Arab world where the leader has no special reason to sit down and talk, and I am not talking about leaders who do not want to talk, such as Saddam Husayn, al-Qadhdhafi, or the Iranians. There are others who have no special motivation in that direction. I told the United States it can change the nature of the incentives, possibly even add some components following which the ruler will say: Fine, I am ready.

[BAMAHANE] What kind of components?

[Arens] The Saudis, for example, are still not ready to come and engage in direct negotiations with us, but they are prepared to participate in this process in some fashion, in the multilateral negotiations. There is no doubt in my mind that the United States supplemented the Saudi package of incentives with something else that helped them cross that threshold.

[BAMAHANE] Such as?

[Arens] Some elements are not difficult to imagine. The Americans came and wanted to cash the IOU, saying: We fought for you in the Gulf war; where would you be today without our intervention? If you want our assistance in the future as well, we also have some requests—if you prefer not to call them demands—to be put to you.

[BAMAHANE] What sort of incentives did the Syrians receive?

[Arens] I think that even without receiving something tangible from the United States, the Syrians did some soul-searching and assessed that the world has changed, that the USSR is no longer what it used to be, and that they will be unable to enjoy the same kind of support they had previously received from it. They figured that if they do not want to remain isolated in the world, it is important for them to mend their relations with the United States. This, they realized, would not be possible if they were to persist in their openly hostile policy toward Israel. That is why they thought it would be in their interest to come and say: We are coming to Madrid. This was definitely no mean feat as far as they are concerned.

[BAMAHANE] Speaking of the Syrians, we would like, with your permission, to touch upon the northern border issue. There has never been more intense activity in and beyond the security zone than now. Where is it all leading?

[Arens] The increase in hostile activity along the northern border did not start with the Madrid conference. It started, in fact, when the new Lebanese Government was formed and the Lebanese Army deployed in the south as well. When the various militias began to disarm, Hizballah did not, remaining the dominant militia in the south even as its historical foe, Amal, in effect laid down its arms. That is why Hizballah currently enjoys a greater degree of freedom to operate against us than ever before. Add to that the peace process and the declaration by Hizballah and its patrons in Iran that they will do everything to sabotage the peace process, and you get the background for the terrorist activity with which we must contend. We, in any case, will not allow this activity to endanger the security of the northern part of Israel.

[BAMAHANE] Mordekhay Gur suggested launching an operation that will liquidate the Hizballah dens. Is that not an idea worth contemplating?

[Arens] This is not the place to enter into that discussion, but I think one must be aware of the fact that Hizballah no longer exists in southern Lebanon. In fact, most of the terrorists who engage in terrorist operations against us in southern Lebanon come from the north, from al-Biqa', and from Beirut. They move southward, perpetrate an act, and return to Beirut. They have no organized, established infrastructure in the south, and by that I mean one that you can penetrate and destroy, and know that you have a year of peace and quiet. The problem, unfortunately, is more complex than that.

[BAMAHANE] So whom are we shooting at?

[Arens] We fire at those areas where we believe Hizballah men can be found at that specific moment. We also hope the local population in southern Lebanon will understand that for its own good, Hizballah must be driven out of the villages.

[BAMAHANE] Can this be done? After all, most of the cases in the past demonstrated to us that the villagers find it very hard to contend with armed gangs that terrorize them.

[Arens] I would not like to be in these villagers' shoes, but at the same time we have seen that when they are furious and do not want the terrorists, the terrorists meet with greater difficulties when they want to carry out their schemes. As everyone understands, they want a supportive environment. A hostile one makes their operations more difficult.

[BAMAHANE] Would it be possible to talk about a future Israeli withdrawal from the security strip as part of an agreement with Lebanon?

[Arens] I do not wish to conduct the negotiations with you. Nonetheless, one must say that we have suffered too

much along the northern border and have paid too dear a price to attain the state of affairs that has prevailed in the nine and a half years since the Peace for Galilee operation, during which no Israeli civilian from the north has been hurt, to allow the hands of the clock to turn backwards and thwart these achievements.

[BAMAHANE] Let us go back to the demonstrations in the territories: How do you address demonstrations with olive branches?

[Arens] We have talked about that before. I think that some segments of the population want to reach a settlement with us. Furthermore, they have reason to do so. There are also concerns related to public relations and image.

In general terms, the source of our problem in the Middle East is that there is great proclivity toward violence in the Arab society. Therefore, when rallies or demonstrations by hundreds of people occur in that society, it sometimes does not take much for something that started out as a nonviolent march to suddenly turn into something violent and fraught with danger. That is why we do not approve marches. We have no objection to organized, nonviolent meetings free of incitement. [passage omitted]

[BAMAHANE] Mr. Arens, with your permission, one final question on the Arrow project. Dov Zakheim, who played a significant role in scrapping the Lavi project, said recently that the Arrow is going in the same direction, meaning that it, too, is a large project on which people pin a lot of hopes and into which a lot of funds are being poured, whereas in the end it will not be able to get to the finish line. What is your comment?

[Arens] Zakheim is indeed one of the people responsible for that sorry mistake that led to the cancellation of the Lavi. Still, he should not be taken seriously.

[BAMAHANE] Where, in the final analysis, does the Arrow project stand?

[Arens] Projects under development are not a subject for public pronouncements. They are too important for that. I think every Israeli will understand—and Zakheim is not Israeli—that it is important that we have intercept capability. We do not want to find ourselves once again in the same situation as last year, when Scuds and other missiles were falling on us. That is why we are working toward attaining that capability. This is very important for Israel insofar as the home front is concerned. Zakheim does not live here; he is not part of the home front. He lives elsewhere.

[BAMAHANE] Finally, Mr. Arens, after the Gulf war, is Israel a safer place to live?

[Arens] Our predicament in the aftermath of the Gulf war has not worsened; on the contrary, I believe that after everyone saw how close Iraq was to having nuclear capability, and after its conventional arsenal was also hurt, the threat to us has diminished markedly, and only today can we fully appreciate it. Iraq may not be able to restore its lost power if Iraq is subjected to very strict, close, and tireless supervision.

Minister Arens Comments on Tapuah Settlement

TA0412204391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Yoram Ronen—live]

[Text] [Ronen] I would like to ask you something, Mr. Arens. As we just saw, the settlers are claiming that you broke your promise to Minister Yuval Ne'eman. You promised them that they could stay at the settlement, at this military presettlement with their trailers, but today you have changed your mind.

[Arens] I broke no promises. Next you will be telling me that I caved in after making this or that statement; however, I have no desire to make this argument any worse. I understand the pain and anger felt by the settlers in Samaria. Incidentally, this pain and anger is shared by all the Israeli people, and therefore this is not the time to argue over something that, while important to them, is also important to the state.

[Ronen] You have still not said whether you promised that settlers could stay there with their trailers.

[Arens] You got an answer. I said that I made no such promise.

[Ronen] Then why did you let the settlers bring the trailers to Tapuah Junction yesterday in front of camera crews and correspondents from all over the world?

[Arens] The trailers were brought there two days ago, and not in front of television crews. They were stationed there without permission.

[Ronen] Sir, what is going to happen now. I understand that the settlers obstructed the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and that the chief of staff is insisting that the trailers be taken over. Are you willing to state categorically this evening that the trailers will be removed tonight or tomorrow.

[Arens] I repeatedly tell you and all the television staff: Do not pay any heed to leaks. They are generally false and untrue. The chief of staff and the IDF will do everything the political echelon decides must be done. They know that. There has never been any argument over that and there never will be.

[Ronen] What happens if the settlers decide to remain at the site with their trailers? Will you instruct the IDF to evict them forcibly?

[Arens] I just told you that this matter should not be exacerbated at such a moment of pain and righteous anger. I do not want to discuss this matter on television.

[Ronen] Well, we will see what happens tomorrow. Thank you, Defense Minister Arens.

IDF Declares Tapuah Closed Military Zone

TA0412155691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Following Defense Minister Arens's announcement that he saw no further need for a permanent civilian presence at the military presettlement at Tapuah junction, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] declared the site a closed military zone.

Our correspondents Mikha'el Tuchfeld and Gil Litman report that many local settlers are still gathered at the site and at the 'Eli intersection. The Army, however, has announced that anyone failing to leave the area will be arrested.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv had earlier reported that Minister Arens said the permanent presence of civilians would only be possible after the civilianization of the presettlement. As things stand now, the Nahal Brigade presettlement is designated for military purposes.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip expressed surprise at Arens' statements and declared that they were a breach of the explicit agreement that had been reached with the defense minister.

Settlers Claim Arens Made Promise

TA0512054591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Settlers in Judaea and Samaria claim to have Minister Arens' promise that the three campers and 10 settlers currently at Tapuah Junction would remain there until the outpost is civilianized. Beni Katzover, one of the settlement leaders, told our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld that just before the settlers and the campers arrived on the site, Minister Yuval Ne'eman had spoken with the defense minister, who said he agreed to leave the settlement on the site. Speaking on Moqed program last night, Minister Arens contended that he had not promised the settlers would be able to remain there.

The Peace Now movement said last night that the Tapuah settlement will harm the peace process and urged the authorities to remove the settlers and the campers from the site.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department spokesperson said the administration is troubled by Israel's decision to establish a new settlement in the territories on the eve of the talks.

Editorial Says Tapuah Harms Peace Process

TA0412152891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 91 p B1

[Editorial: "A Settlement in the Heart of the Process"]

[Text] The murder of 'Ofra settler Tzvi Klein by terrorists near al-Birah is abhorrent. It should be denounced, and the security forces should be urged to do everything in their power to find his assassins and bring them to trial.

The growing use of firearms, which was predictable and which is no longer an incidental phenomenon, is particularly worrisome. There is once again room to demand that the Army and Shin Bet curb this dangerous development.

The gravity of these actions do not justify the Israeli Government's official reaction of establishing a settlement at the Tapuah Junction. At this point it is a military outpost manned by Nahal Brigade soldiers, but the establishment of such an outpost for security reasons only requires the decision of a regional commander and, at most, the approval of the chief of staff. This particular outpost, however, was discussed by the Inner Cabinet, which gave its blessing, probably with the support of the defense minister and the prime minister. The intention is to set up a civilian settlement named Rehelim on the site as Mr. Shamir stated in Modi'in yesterday. On the same occasion, Shamir confirmed that the Inner Cabinet decision on the establishment of Rehelim came as a direct response to the murder of Tzvi Klein.

This is an astounding and very worrisome development in the government's policy for settlement in the territories. Until now, it was Gush Emunim that pressed and pushed for the establishment of new settlements in response to attacks on Jews in the territories. The government has now adopted Gush Emunim's methods, although it is clear to all that this is not the right way to handle terrorism, just as it is not the right way to plan and set up settlements, even by a government that advocates the continuation of the settlement drive.

What is even more serious is the timing of the decision, the eve of 4 December, the day set for the bilateral talks in Washington, which the Israeli Government has delayed to 9 December, a date it set itself. Was the political and informational mess caused by the cabinet decision to set its own date for the beginning of talks not bad enough? Did the confrontation with the United States, which is getting close to a dangerous point, need a further push from the Israeli Government?

It is hard to understand both the government decision to set up another settlement at this particular time and Shamir's justification. Even if the government cannot commit itself to a temporary moratorium on the settlement drive, what is the sense of making fiery speeches announcing the acceleration of the establishment of settlements, such as his speech at Modi'in yesterday, at this particular time? The wish to endear himself to the extremists inside and outside the government cannot be sufficient reason to harm the peace process.

Left-wing circles yesterday accused Shamir of deliberately harming the political process with a view to terminating it. We hope that is not the case, and that the

government decision on the establishment of Rehelim was only an emotional reaction that the government did not properly think it out.

Even if the less severe assessment is true, however, there is very good reason to be sorry about it.

Sources Confirm Defense Deportation Proposal

TA0512111691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Dec 91 p 1

[Report by On Levi and Hemi Shalev]

[Text] The defense establishment is examining a proposal to deport half a dozen Arabs from the territories. It has been learned that the draft list, which will be brought before the political echelon for approval, includes five or six Palestinians suspected of committing serious security crimes.

As for the possible effect of such a move on the political process, authoritative sources claimed last night that all the prospective deportees belong to the rejectionist front, which opposes the process and the Palestinian delegation's participation in it. The defense minister's media adviser said last night in reply to a question: "I will not comment on the matter. I neither confirm nor deny it."

Some former deportees, among them Muhammad Milhim, have joined the PLO's executive council. Others are participating in the current phase of the peace talks in Washington as "advisers" to the Palestinian delegation. One such person is Akram Haniyah.

Senior sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that they know that a list of deportees is being drafted by the defense establishment, but that it is not yet clear whether it will be approved.

150 Ramallah Residents Detained in Manhunt

TA0512113291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] The security forces have detained 150 Ramallah District residents in the wake of the [1 Dec] attack in al-Birah, in which 'Ofra resident Tzvi Klein was murdered. Official Army sources told our correspondent Moti Amir that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the security forces have been conducting thorough searches in the Ramallah area for the past five days. A curfew was imposed on the district, and dozens of locals who violated it were detained. The forces are conducting house-to-house searches and interrogating everyone in their effort to locate the murderers.

Soviet Envoy: 3d Round of Peace Talks Set for Moscow

JN0412133891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Mahmud al-Sharif, minister of information and acting foreign minister, this morning received at his office in the Foreign Ministry the Soviet ambassador in Amman, who conveyed to him the agreement of the cosponsors of the Middle East peace conference—the Soviet Union and the United States—on holding the third stage of the peace process, the multilateral negotiations, in Moscow on 28-29 January.

The ambassador said the official invitations would be extended to the concerned parties later. He emphasized the importance of Jordan's participation in these negotiations due to the high appreciation and admiration which Jordan and its leadership enjoy through its continued efforts toward realizing just peace in the region.

On his part, al-Sharif said Jordan welcomes positive participation in and contribution to these negotiations. He expressed appreciation for the efforts being made by the Soviet Union and its contribution to the peace process, in addition to the great expectations Jordan attaches to these efforts. He stressed that Moscow is a suitable venue for the meeting of the regional and international powers in a joint effort to remove the atmosphere of confrontations and wars from the area to an atmospheres of coexistence and peace.

Bush Urged To Issue 'Single Warning' to Israel

JN0412095991 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Dec 91 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "A Few U.S. Words Can Make Peace!"]

[Text] The Israelis do not want to go to Washington because they do not want peace. Ever since they established their state, and throughout the years of their occupation of the Arab territory, they went to Washington only to obtain funds or additional means of killing and terrorism, in addition to securing political and propagandist cover for their aggressive and terrorist activities against the Arab homeland.

Yesterday, Shamir claimed that no power can force Israel to do what it does not want to do. Such a claim is an attempt to deceive the world about the Israelis' ability to do without the United States or to be a superior racist, terrorist, and expansionist military power in this region, without giving Washington any credit for that.

Iraq, with its scientific and economic capabilities, has been destroyed as a service to Israel. Now, the Iraqi children are being slaughtered, the sick murdered, and the people deprived of bread and security as a service to Zionism, which is condemned as a racist movement. In spite of all this, Israel now is trying to keep the territory, win peace, and obtain unlimited U.S. and European guarantees that Arab weakness will be maintained and that the Arab nation will continue to be insulted and scorned.

We mention all this to reaffirm that Israel's absence from the Washington talks—if this happens—can be compensated by a U.S. presence. The Americans dealt with the Gulf crisis in the absence of Iraq and they launched their dirty war against Iraq in the absence of all values and ethics. They continue to impose the siege on the Iraqi people, causing the death of their children, their sick and elderly, while all the Americans and Westerners are busily preparing for Christmas and providing all means of joy and peace for their children, sick, and elderly! Therefore, the United States cannot only force Shamir and Israel to enter the peace process, but also to accept international legitimacy with all its principles and resolutions, especially those calling for withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The United States is even capable of imposing a siege on Israel, withholding aid to it, postponing the loans, and preventing the building of Israeli settlements for new immigrants in the occupied Arab territory, if it wishes to do so.

The realization of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, after all the Arab parties have agreed to participate in the peace process, has become a U.S. responsibility which will not cost the United States $60 billion, thousands of warplanes and missiles. It will not entail burying Israeli soldiers alive or continuing to slaughter the Iraqi [as published] children in cold, cold blood. The United States can do this with a single warning of a few words. With such a warning, President Bush can go down in history as a man of peace and not war. He will also take his place among the great U.S. presidents and not among those who did nothing but sanction the launching of wars, the slaughtering of peoples, and the destruction of the environment, vegetation, and forests everywhere in our world.

Sentence Commuted for Muhammad's Army Members

JN0412143491 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] A royal decree has been issued commuting to life imprisonment at hard labor the death sentences handed down by the State Security Court to the following:

Fua'd Sulayman Fu'ad Da'nah.

Jawad Muhammad Sulayman 'Abdallah al-Faqih.

Habis 'Isa 'Abd-al-Hafiz Sanduqah al-Qaysi.

Nabil Yusuf Muhammad Ahmad Abu-Harithiyah.

Muhammad Tal'at Muhammad al-Dajani.

Ziyad Yunus Talal Kashur.

The royal pardon stresses the values of virtue that His Majesty King Husayn holds in his heart for each and every member of the Jordanian family. It constitutes a noble invitation to all sons of Jordan to rally behind the national objectives, which protect the unity of this country, spare it any threats, and enable it to be strong and cohesive and capable of overcoming the challenges

through the unity of its citizens under the supremacy of law and by avoiding anything that may disturb security and infringe on the freedom of citizens.

AL-RIBAT on 'Harassment' by Interior Ministry

JN0412202391 Amman AL-RIBAT in Arabic 3 Dec 91 p 1

[Editorial: "We and the Publications Department"]

[Text] We, AL-RIBAT management, continue to suffer harassment by the Publications Department, which is affiliated with the Ministry of Information. This department surprises us from time to time with the confiscation of one of our AL-RIBAT editions, thus wasting thousands of dinars, destroying thousands of newspapers, and denying AL-RIBAT readers access to the paper, which they expect to see on newsstands every Tuesday morning, if its issuance is not delayed. If they do not see the paper on newsstands, they rush for explanations by telephone or by personal visits. This compels us to tell them and news agencies the truth regarding the situation.

What is strange and dumbfounding is that they ban us and grant us permission to appear depending on their own criteria and without due consideration to dissenting views, as if AL-RIBAT were expected to seek inspiration in its articles from their sensitivities, minds, and desires. It seems that the paper is not expected to publish articles that fall in line with its policy, which must reflect the fact that it is the mouthpiece of the Islamic Movement, the largest and most organized opposition group. The reference here is to a group bent on exercising constructive and quiet opposition, one that worships God regardless of whether it is in accord with the government or in opposition, that places the homeland's interests above all considerations, and that also seeks God's satisfaction before anything else. The reason behind this dispute could be the lack of clarity and the absence of agreement whether the paper should be viewed as a foreign concession paper or a Jordanian one, considering that it is issued by the Islamic Movement in this country, and that it tackles domestic concerns and issues. We are subjected to censorship because we are viewed as a foreign newspaper. At the same time, we are asked not to speak of this or that Arab country in which Islam and Muslims are experiencing an ordeal because we are viewed as a Jordanian newspaper.

In addition to this harassment and confiscation, we have this delay every week which has become an established habit. For weeks, the paper has been issued every Wednesday morning instead of every Tuesday morning.

O publications and media officials, we have a pledge to make. We will neither slander, level charges, engage in character assassination, nor seek sedition and sensationalism. We will seek to vindicate the cause of God through wisdom and solemn advice. This falls in line with our code of ethics and our record. In return for this, we want you to be democratic, and consequently to respect our ideas, and allow us to communicate them as we see fit, even if this were to run counter to your own views. This would neither belittle your position nor undermine your censorship right. If your true objective is censorship, then censor those who seek who deviate from the straight path, to bring about corruption on earth, and to harm the nation, its ethics, and its religion.

Should you decide to continue to confiscate editions, and harass and hassle us, then it would be better for us and for you to ban the issuance of AL-RIBAT once and for all. If this were to happen, we would be excused by God, readers, subscribers, and journalists. Let us wait and see what happens.

King Husayn May Call For Arab Minisummit

JN0512114191 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 5 Dec 91 pp 1, 3

[Text] Amman—AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that His Majesty King Husayn will call for a mini Arab summit on the sidelines of the Islamic summit in Dakar, slated to open on Monday. Official Jordanian sources told AKHBAR AL-USBU' that His Majesty King Husayn will urge the Arab leaders to agree to at least a minimum degree of Arab solidarity against the Israeli intransigence so that the Arabs will face Israel with a unified position on all issues related to the full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, headed by Jerusalem.

These sources stressed that His Majesty King Husayn will emphasize to the Arab leaders the need to forget the pre-Gulf war stage and begin a new Arab era so that the Arabs can obtain the maximum possible political gains during the Arab-Israeli talks and embark on a comprehensive Arab economic development process that would bring prosperity to the entire Arab nation.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' also learned that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who will participate in the mini Arab summit, will play a prominent role in bringing the Arab viewpoints closer and in reinforcing Arab solidarity for the sake of Palestine so that the Palestinians can restore their full rights and contribute effectively and positively toward unifying the Arab ranks and achieving Arab strength on the political and economic levels.

His Majesty King Husayn has paved the way for this mini Arab summit in telephone calls with Syrian and Egyptian Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He also praised Saudi support for Jordan in his speech from the throne. President 'Arafat also visited Syria and Egypt for the same purpose and met with Mubarak and al-Asad. He also made press statements in which he praised the role King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, is playing in support of the Palestine question.

Interior Minister: German Hostage Release 'Soon'

AU0512134191 Hamburg DPA in German 1210 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Beirut—The Lebanese interior minister is convinced that the German hostages Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner will be released shortly. "The chapter of German hostages in Lebanon will be over very, very soon," Sami al-Khatib told DPA in an interview today.

Al-Khatib declined to mention details concerning the mechanics and time of the release. A firm decision has been made, however, by all parties involved in the hostage affair "to close the chapter once and for all."

It is generally believed that 'Abd-al-Hadi Hammadi, the oldest brother of the two Hammadi brothers imprisoned in Germany for terrorist acts, ordered the abduction of the two Germans in Sidon in May 1989. According to Syrian circles, Hammadi decided to release his victims following a promise by Iran that it will work for the release of his brothers. 'Abd-al-Hadi Hammadi is allegedly only waiting for the outcome of talks that a UN mediator is currently holding in Bonn. [passage omitted]

Fresh Al-Khiyam Prisoner Release Expected 6 Dec

NC0512072391 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Our Tyre correspondent has reported that according to military sources, a new group of prisoners is expected to be released from al-Khiyam Prison between today and tomorrow following the release yesterday of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson.

Hizballah Head Denies Holding Israeli POW's

NC0412172391 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Hizballah leader Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has said that Hizballah holds no Israeli POW's. He said that if the party had any Israeli detainees, it would have handed them over to the United States.

Al-Hirawi, Karami To Congratulate Al-Asad

NC0512092491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber Speaker Husayn al- Husayni, and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami left Beirut for Damascus today to offer congratulations to President Hafiz al-Asad on his reelection.

The following ministers also left for the same purpose: Michel al-Murr, Albert Mansur, Michel Sasin, Nazih al-Bizri, 'Ali al-Khalil, 'Abdallah al-Amin, Butrus Harb, Zahir al-Khatib, Muhammad Baydun, Shawqi Fakhuri, George Sa'adah, Jamil Kibbi, Sami al-Khatib, Talal Arslan, Fariq Buwauz, Elie Hubayqah, Khatchig Babikian, Agop Zuhkatarian, Muhammad al-Jarudi, Nadim Salim, and As'ad Hardan.

Heads of the parliamentary committees and several deputies left for Damascus this morning to offer congratulations on al-Asad's reelection.

Palestinians Protest Washington Peace Talks

NC0412121391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] A general strike was observed in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp today to protest the Washington peace talks. Camp schools also were closed and camp inhabitants staged a sit-in in front of the Lebanese Red Cross center.

The command of the PLO factions in the south issued a statement in which it called for observing today as a day to express denunciation and rejection of the U.S.-Israeli policy, which aims to undermine Palestinian national rights. The statement stressed the need for abiding by the Palestine National Council's resolutions.

The statement said there can be no peace or stability if Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories is not guaranteed, the building of settlements is not halted, the 1949 Geneva fourth agreement is not applied, and if Jerusalem is not considered the eternal capital of the Palestinian people.

Birri on Government 'Conspiracy' Against Country

NC0412141391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Minister Nabih Birri has stated that the regime, intentionally or unintentionally, is implementing a conspiracy against the country. He added: If the situation remains as is, I will demand that the president resign. He pointed out that the leadership has told him that they are unable to draft by-laws for the cabinet, adding that they are not used to the rule of institutions but rather to a totalitarian, rural, and feudal system.

In an interview today with the newspaper AL-ANWAR, Birri said the only decision that the leadership can make is to create differences among the Lebanese. Now they are trying to create differences among Walid Junblatt, the Maronite patriarchiate, and Nabih Birri. The regime even created differences among the people of Zahlah.

He pointed out that the state's general budget was referred by the cabinet to the Chamber of Deputies before the ministers had a chance to look at it.

He noted that the regime does not want the displaced people to return to their homes. [passage omitted]

Damascus Radio Reports Anderson Release

JN0512061491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur last night handed over U.S. hostage Terry Anderson to U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross.

Shakkur said: We meet for the third successive day on a happy occasion—the release of a U.S. hostage, thanks to the humanitarian efforts made by Syria on the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad. Shakkur added: We hope that the two German hostages held in Lebanon, and Arab youths unjustly held in Israeli prisons and other prisons will soon be released. We also hope that the prevailing atmosphere of tolerance would help in settling all issues related to the hostages file.

Giandomenico Picco, representative of the UN secretary general, expressed happiness over Anderson's release, and conveyed the UN secretary general's congratulations to Anderson on regaining his freedom. Picco said: This outcome could not have been attained without the cooperation of Syria and Iran. A great deal has been done for the humanitarian problem of the hostages, and those held illegally. Tonight, I give the UN secretary general's pledge to continue efforts to close this file.

U.S. Ambassador Christopher Ross thanked, on behalf of President George Bush and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government for their humanitarian efforts to secure Anderson's release yesterday.

The U.S. ambassador also thanked the personal representative of UN secretary general and the sides that helped secure the release of the U.S. hostage.

Ross said: But our happiness is not complete because this humanitarian tragedy is not over. A number of hostages and those held illegally remain in the region. We call for their immediate release.

Anderson thanked the Syrian Government for its efforts to bring about his, and the other hostages' release. He also thanked Lebanon, Iran, and the United Nations.

Moreover, President George Bush thanked Syria for its role in securing the release of Terry Anderson. President Bush called for the release of all hostages, including the two German hostages.

Islamic Jihad Makes Hostage Statement

JN0412145991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] U.S. hostage Terry Anderson is expected to arrive in Damascus this evening, where his Lebanese wife and his daughter, Salome, who was born three months after her father's abduction six years and nine months ago, are waiting for him. Anderson is the last U.S. hostage in Lebanon.

In a statement issued in Damascus, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine announced its decision to separate the file of the Western hostages from that of prisoners in Israel. It said: We wanted to close the hostage file before Christmas, after Israel placed obstacles to a comprehensive solution to the problem.

Regarding the two German hostages, it has been learned that Chancellor Kohl met with several ministers of his government to discuss the issue of the two hostages, Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Struebig. Information from Beirut indicates that the two hostages would be released in exchange for the Hammadi brothers held in Germany.

Al-Asad Speech Hails Referendum Results

JN0412212491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2034 GMT 4 Dec 91

["Message" by President Hafiz al-Asad to "our Syrian Arab people", on 4 December; live or recorded]

[Text] Brothers and sons, beloved ones, sons of this great people: I speak to you today to convey my sincerest love, greatest appreciation, and deepest gratitude. I speak to you overflowing with feelings. It is an inexhaustible spring of love for each and every one of you; a spring that will never die down, but, rather, will grow with time. No end to it can be seen and I see no limits to it. For all of this, thanks must go to this homeland, which has brought us all up to love it. Thanks must also go to you, dear ones, for your great work and positions, which have surrounded me with love and loyalty and strengthened in me the belief in the future of the homeland and its dignity and prosperity.

We have traveled a long way on that path. We will continue to walk in that direction with solid steps and with your resolve and cohesion, we will succeed, God willing.

I speak to you today to greet you. But what greeting can reach the level of your immense love, great loyalty, and your zealousness, which is as hard to describe as the feelings it has generated in me.

The millions of Syrians who have congregated daily in squares and streets in all of our cities and villages, and whose shouts have been filling the sky of this homeland since the announcement on the referendum, not only confirm national unity, but also a national Sufism, lived by our people, with what it entails in determination and the ability to build the homeland, protect the national and pan-Arab rights, and push forward our march toward our objectives to secure the interests, glory, and pride of our nation.

Brothers and sons: In light of what we live, hear, and read, we can make sure that this popular gathering, with

its size, continuation, and nature has never been witnessed by our country throughout its past and modern history. This gathering is unique of its kind all over the world.

These gatherings which are a source of pride, joy, and happiness, are making me, at the same, feel more of the heaviness of responsibility, though I have never spared an effort in order to match your expectations. But this giant national unity is providing all of us with the strength that we want and the weapons that we need so as to shoulder, along with every individual in this homeland, the responsibility that we have.

The people who can realize its national unity, as our people are doing now, are undoubtedly able to shoulder responsibilities, no matter how serious they might be, and successfully work towards its goals no matter how difficult they might be.

Brothers and sons: We all lived glorious days and you made them days of great joy, and during them you made popular celebrations. The joyful pictures and scenes were seen by everybody in a manner that fully reflects the greatness of the people of Syria and its entrenched national unity, and its deep awareness of the requisites of its present and future.

You made your choice in advance of the date set for the referendum so you expressed your choice in the way you wanted and chose. These celebrations and popular marches on the yards and streets that continued from 17 November have been a genuine referendum on the policy in which you believed, and you have been its backbone and the source of its strength.

After the announcement of the results of the referendum, I thank you for your dear confidence, and value the collective spirit which glittered in the most sublime meaning and most beautiful shape. I thank God for his graces, the greatest of which is this national unity which prevailed in its most beautiful shapes and which is obvious to anyone who has eyes and a mind.

O brothers and sisters; O daughters and sons: Your confidence is dear in its meaning. It is a great trust and big asset; it is a source of happiness and inspiration. The confidnce is a ceaseless source of strength; it is the power of the masses which is above every force on earth. It is the will of the masses, which was demonstrated in this collective, spontaneous, and sincere spirit of the huge masses, and in the many demonstrations which were staged day and night in which all the millions of Syrian people, all the people from all walks of life, participated. Youths, students, workers, farmers, teachers, clergymen, merchants, women, lawyers, doctors, pharmacists, craftsmen, and our beloved children participated in these demonstrations. Our men and women; old men and youths participated in them. Our military sons participated in these demonstrations in their barracks. Our dear sons, who came to public squares in their wheelchairs, participated in these demonstrations; their participation deeply moved any person who values the meaning of collective consensus.

It is the will of the masses that was expressed in the chanting, in the slogans raised; in the joy that filled the homeland and which shined in the faces of the men and women, in the faces of the children, youths, and old men; in the prayers of the people which were raised everywhere; in the songs of the children and women; and in the shouts of love that were made everywhere. It is the coherence of the people in one united bloc; it is the unity of the people, and the unity of land and people.

Yes, this is your confidence. And he who gains the people's confidence does not fear difficulties, because the will of the people comes from the will of God. The one who has the people on his side and who is on the side of the people, God will be on his side. And the one who has God on his side will triumph, though after a while.

O brothers and sons: What has happened makes me feel as if our people had turned on this occasion into a one big family, whose members embrace one another. Love is spreading and filling every place in this country. Hurting one another stopped and crime disappeared during that period, as I learned from the Ministry of Interior, whose records confirm this. I seize this opportunity and ask: Why do we not benefit from this reality and this climate that prevailed in the homeland? Why do we not continue to be as we were during these days in terms of our relationships with the other sons of our homeland or of our daily job-related, economic, educational, social, and other activities so that they will positively reflect on the beloved homeland and its power, progress, and prosperity. We hope that we will remember these days that were full of joy and love in order to spread love all over the homeland, to be more active in carrying out our duties, and to increase the strength of the homeland, which God granted to us.

Love and work are needed by the homeland for its existence and freedom. Let us love other sons of the homeland and let us increase our production in our work so that the homeland can attain the various factors of strength and move confidently toward the homeland's strength and development.

Those who are useful to their sons are loved by God, and who else is more useful than those who develop their homeland and spread love in it. Everyone, without exception, has a duty in this regard.

O brothers and sons: The homeland needs us all and needs our minds and efforts, and we have to continue to build this home in which we live and also to strengthen it. Everyone works in his field. The good student strengthens this home, the farmer who cultivates his land well strengthens this home, the worker who cares for his machine and increases production strengthens this home, the employee who carries out his duty seriously and fairly strengthens this home, and the soldier who looks after his weapons and trains well strengthens this home.

Consequently, each citizen, in his own position, has a role to play and a duty to fulfill. We must realize that there can be no dignified life in a country whose citizens do not endeavor to strengthen its edifice and reinforce its strength. You and I realize that our country is strong and feared. But, still, I say these words to you because we want more and because life progresses all the time.

Brothers and sons: People are the source of power and the decisionmakers. You have decided that we shall continue the march together. I take the responsibility with all satisfaction and accept the burden, for which I seek help from God and the people to carry. You are the main support. You are the biggest credit. My power and resolve I derive from you. I have always been someone who belongs to you, carrying a responsibility which you have chosen me to carry. You have pledged allegiance to me, and I pledge allegiance to you. You have made an oath to me, and I make an oath to you. My oath to you is to do all I can to be worthy of your confidence. You will always find me in the forefront, defending, with you, this homeland, looking after its interests, protecting its security, fighting for the sake of the nation's interests, and struggling to regain the occupied territory and the usurped rights.

I have always taken it upon myself to work in accordance with the people's will and interests. I have spent years looking after the people's rights, and I have worked day and night. I only find my rest in working for the benefit of the homeland and the people, and I have never refrained from giving time to that purpose.

Over 21 years, we have entrenched principles in which we believe and values of which we are proud. We have consolidated the status of the homeland through nationalist and pan-Arab positions, and achievements that have been realized in all fields.

We have built a system whose roots are deep and whose branches are high. We have established it on principles of freedom, democracy, self-respect, and national and pan-Arab dignity.

Brothers and sons: For a long time, Syria has been calling for peace in accordance with UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 338 and including Resolution 242, and on the basis of which the fighting during the October 1973 war was stopped after the Arabs and the Israelis accepted this resolution.

Syria was the last country to accept this resolution on 24 October 1973, while the others accepted it immediately after its adoption on 22 October 1973. Since that time, Israel has always been obstructing peace efforts at a time the Israeli statements were speaking about peace and claiming that the Arabs are the ones who reject peace and only seek war.

When an international desire for peace emerged late last year, Israel hurried to close the door from the beginning so that the peace efforts would not occupy much space and grow bigger and become difficult to stop, particularly in such international circumstances that are willing for peace. Syria took the initiative by opening the door for this international desire for peace, in harmony with what it has been saying and emphasizing for a long time on its desire for peace on the basis of the international legitimacy and through an international conference. Israel arrogantly rejected and practiced much obstruction in a bid to freeze the peace efforts and prevent the convening of the conference. But it was convened in accordance with the agreement reached with the cosponsors of the conference: the United States and the Soviet Union.

Now, the Israeli Government is doing everything to hamper the process in order to block the talks that were scheduled to be held by the committees in Madrid. Lately, it was agreed that the talks would take place in Washington, as suggested by the cosponors of the conference. Attempts by Israel's Government to hamper peace endeavors, as well as the statements made by a number of Israeli officials, who stress their desire for expansion and who publicly affirm their insistence on expansion and on retaining the occupied Arab territories, have exposed to world public opinion a fact that was shrouded in obscurity. This fact is that the Israeli Government is seeking expansion rather than peace.

Syria was not surprised by the Israeli position, and we have always announced that Israel's rulers want to expand, occupy, and establish settlements, rather than peace. This was our belief in the past and it is our belief at present. But the world, which missed the facts and believed that Israel's rulers only wanted to seek peace, knows that these rulers' only goal is to seek invasion, expansion, and settling in the Arab lands which they occupy.

O brothers and sons: Although we know Israel's intentions, which I have mentioned, we seriously responded to the peace efforts in line with our call in the past for implementing the UN resolutions. If peace is achieved and UN resolutions are implemented, we can say that is what we wanted. But if peace is not achieved and UN resolutions are not implemented, Israel's intentions will be exposed to the world, and the Israeli rulers will be exposed as expansionist invaders who are hostile to peace. This will be a gain for the just Arab position and for the peace partisans of the world.

We, however, were not worried in the past when Israel complicated the peace efforts. Nothing will make us worry if Israel foils the current peace international efforts. We believed, and we will continue to believe, that the future is ours, because rights, justice, and the will to safeguard them are with us. The future will not be on the side of invasion, expansion, and settlements. He who believes that we might relinquish an iota of our soil will be deluding himself or pretending to delude himself. Neither will the Syrian people accept this, nor the sons of Syria do this. He who believes that we might relinquish an iota of our soil will be deluding himself or pretending

to delude himself. Neither will the Syrian people accept this, nor the sons of Syria do this.

O brothers and sisters: I thank you all. I also thank the speaker and members of the People's Assembly—this democratic institution—for their efforts and for their collective agreement on the nomination, and for their assessments included in their speeches. These assessments—as shown by the results of the referendum—touched the conscience of the people and expressed their desire and opinions. I also thank them for their comments, which lasted until a late hour last night. I hope that we all will be able to serve our homeland and our people; I also hope that our efforts will succeed and triumph.

O brothers and sons: As I recall our celebrations and marches in our cities, villages, and neighborhoods; in our universities, schools, factories, and companies; as I recall the pictures of the cheerful festivals throughout those days; our young men and women, and our men, women, and children, dancing and singing; the decorations the citizens mounted on their houses and places of work; the gathering halls and the citizens congregating in them; the cars decorated with pictures and flags of the homeland, travelling on the streets day and night; the neighborhoods and their beautifully decorated streets; the people staying up very late and being as active at night as they are during the day. As I recall pictures of other kinds of activity, which a great number of citizens have made; slaughtering sheep in the streets and distributing great quantities of various sweets and other products; and the invitations to meals for which Syrians are renowned—as I recall all this, a marvelous national picture and a national purity emerge before me. It is the people's greatness, nobility, and love. It is your greatness, brother citizens. Greetings to you from the bottom of my heart. Greetings and love to each and every one of you. I beseech God guide me to serve your objectives, promote your standing, and achieve what you desire, and God is capable of everything. Peace of God and His mercy be upon you.

Afghanistan

Yunes Khales Denounces Mojahedin-Soviet Accord

BK0512080791 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Dec 91 p 5

[Text] Peshawar, Dec 4—Mowlawi Mohammad Yunes Khales, chief of his own faction of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan has renounced the Soviet-Mojahedin talks and made it a precondition that for the continuation of such a dialogue the Soviet Union should officially declare the Kabul regime as illegitimate and illegal and stop all kinds of assistance to it, reports Afghan News Agency.

In an interview here Wednesday, he denouced the recent Soviet-Mojahedin agreement and claimed that the Mojahedin delegation which visited Moscow as not representing the whole Afghan nation. "We did not send our representative to Moscow because we didn't want to go to the home of our enemy for talks", he continued. He alleged that only Moscow is the beneficiary of the Soviet-Mojahedin joint declaration and the forthcoming talks in Islamabad too would produce the same results. He said his party was not ready to participate in such a dialogue unless the Soviet Union declares the Kabul regime as illegal and halts all sorts of assistance to it.

When asked to whether he was extended any invitation for the joint meeting of Mojahedin leaders with the President of Pakistan, Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the Prime Minister, Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, he commented that neither he had received any invitation in this regard nor he would have liked to attend the conference, because we are not ready to participate in the second round of Soviet-Mojahedin dialogue being held in Islamabad in the near future, he added.

He blamed the Soviet Union for defying the conditions of the Mojahedin. He said the Mojahedin delegation during their visit of Moscow had demanded the declaration of all the agreements signed between Kabul and Moscow as null and void but the Soviets refused the demand by saying that the fate of such agreements would be decided by the future government of Afghanistan. He said this was an ample proof of the insincerity of the Soviets towards the Mojahedin.

Replying to a question, he said Pakistan's Secretary-General of Foreign Affairs, Akram Zaki and the UN Secretary-General's special representative to Afghanistan, Benon Sevan had meetings with him during their recent visit to Peshawar.

Najibollah's Wife Reportedly Flees to France

BK0512073091 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 5 Dec 91 p 9

[Text] Peshawar, Dec. 1—The relatives of Najibollah, the communist regime's ruler, on the account of his advice are managing to leave Afghanistan and his wife Fatana has left for France.

One of the close relative of Najib who did not want to be identified, told MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] that Najib bought a villa in France recently and intends to leave for that country via India.

His brother-in-law, Ahmad Sarwar (Fatana's sister's husband) who is Kabul Ambassador in Delhi had great role for buying the villa and paving the way for leaving of Fatana.

The report added that rumours were prevailing in Kabul that Najib and his most friends from the Communist Party will run away from Afghanistan.

The depressed life in Kabul has forced the regime authorities to leave Afghanistan and take shelter either in India or some other country.

India

Minister: 'No Shift' in USSR's India Policy

BK0512094491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha was told today that there is no shift in the Soviet Union's relations with India.

The minister for external affairs, Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki, informed the house that political and economic restructuring in that country is taking place at a very rapid pace. In a written reply, he said during his visit to Moscow in November he was assured by President Gorbachev and other senior Soviet leaders, including President Yeltsin of the Russian Federation, that their country stands by all its commitments to India.

Minister Says Israel 'Not Serious' About Peace

BK0412161391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1559 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 4 (AFP)—India denounced Wednesday Israel's decision to keep away from the latest round of Middle East peace talks, saying it was an indication that there was "no genuine change of heart" in Tel Aviv in favour of a settlement.

A Ministry of External Affairs spokesman said Israel's insistence on the postponement of the talks scheduled in Washington, reinforced New Delhi's view that it was not serious about reaching a peaceful settlement.

He told a regular press briefing that Israel's recalcitrance made India reluctant to upgrade its relations with Tel Aviv, with which New Delhi has no diplomatic relations.

Pakistan's 'Campaign' on Kashmir Criticized

BK0412163791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] New Delhi has regretted that Pakistan is using international fora for its campaign against India. A

spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi reiterated India's stand that all outstanding issues with Pakistan should be settled bilaterally. He said there is no question of accepting any good offices or fact-finding or mediatory missions.

The spokesman was reacting to a report published in a section of the press that the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] nations are all set to endorse Pakistan's position on Kashmir at their forthcoming summit in Senegal. He said it is India's belief that the ICO has no locus standi in the matter.

Lok Sabha Rules Territory To Remain Indian

BK0512081491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha clarified today that Tin Bigha will continue to be the Indian territory and there is no transfer of any territory [to Bangladesh] under the 1974 or '82 agreements.

Replying to questions in the Lok Sabha, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, said under the international law, the right of access known as servitude is to be provided by every country to its enclaves.

Iran

Genscher Hails Tehran Role in Hostage Release

LD0412193691 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] In the wake of the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the release of the hostages in Lebanon, German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher, during a telephone conversation with Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati this evening, expressed thanks and gratitude for the humanitarian efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in using its influence to release the hostages. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has become famous for observing human rights in the world. We are highly delighted with the news of the hostages' release, and for this reason we thank the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the decisive endeavor toward the release of all the hostages.

During the telephone conversation, Besharati said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has undertaken many efforts to convince the groups holding Western hostages to release them. Today we are happy with the outcome of our efforts. Of course this time it is the turn of the West to put pressure to bear on the Zionist regime to force it to release the Lebanese and Palestinian hostages. We have told the group that holds the two German hostages that no doubt the German Government would take a positive step toward the release of the jihad brothers after the release of the German hostages.

Velayati Returns After USSR Visit

LD0312222691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned to Tehran Tuesday night at the end of his 10-day visit to the Soviet Union. During his visit the Iranian foreign minister met and held talks in Moscow with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, USSR Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He also held talks with top-ranking officials of the republics.

An agreement to continue and expand cooperation in the cultural, economic, political, and technical fields was signed with authorities of the republics of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan.

On Tuesday night, at the end of his 24-hour visit to Baku and following the signing of a memorandum of understanding on various fields, Velayati, joined by Azerbaijani Prime Minister Gasanov, participated in a news conference. Velayati said that the agreements achieved are very positive and constructive. He added according to the memorandum of understanding, Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan will cooperate in transport and communications in an expanded manner. He said that in the field of telecommunications there has been a valuable understanding and that direct telephone lines will be increased to facilitate commercial affairs. It is agreed that the Azerbaijan railway will be linked to Nakhijevan through Iranian territory.

Velayati added that joint shipping and passenger transport by ships; an air link between Tehran, Tabriz, and Baku as well as Baku, Mashhad, and Tehran; an exchange of television programs, the boosting of Iranian and Azerbaijani radio programs; facilities for the production of radio and television programs of the two republics; cultural exchanges; the establishment of an Iranian bank in Baku for speeding up the exchange of money and goods; and the establishment of joint corporations between Iran and Azerbaijan are among points agreed in the memorandum of understanding.

In reply to a question by a MOSCOW NEWS reporter, Mr. Velayati said that the results of his visit to the Soviet Union and its various republics are very positive. He said that in Moscow valuable and frank talks were held. Talks with Mr. Gorbachev were constructive, frank, and sincere. He said that the expansion of ties with the Soviet Union and the Muslim-inhabited republics would embrace all dimensions.

In reply to a question by an Iranian television reporter, Mr. Gasanov said that talks with the high-ranking Iranian delegation were very positive. He stressed the need for timely implementation of agreements arrived at in Tehran and Baku. In Baku, Mr. Velayati had two rounds of talks with Ayaz Mutalibov, president of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan. In one of these talks Mutalibov

said that relations between the Azerbaijan republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran have found their form, which is reflected in the agreements. He said that fraternal relations are increasing every day.

King Fahd Renews Invitation to Rafsanjani

LD0412154491 Tehran IRNA in English 1247 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA—The Saudi charge d'affaires in Tehran on Wednesday submitted the first deputy foreign minister a message from King Fahd for President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in which he reextended an invitation to him to pay a state visit to Saudi Arabia.

In his message, King Fahd said during the forthcoming summit meet of heads of Muslim states in Dakar, Senegal he and President Rafsanjani would consult on the problems of the Muslim world particularly the Palestinian issue and ways of ensuring the dignity of Islamic ummah.

Heads of state of the 45 member Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) are to meet in the Senegalese capital from December 9-12.

'Ali Mohammad Besharati, the deputy foreign minister, told Saudi Arabia's Badr 'Uthman Bakhsh that since the OIC summit meet would be held at a crucial juncture Muslims expect it to try to remove differences and divisions among them and to restore unity to the Muslim world.

Besharati also requested Saudi Arabia to allow 150,000 Iranian Muslims to travel to that country for the next year's hajj pilgrimage in view of a large number of people still awaiting to carry out their once-in-a-life obligatory religious duty.

"Of course we understand the problems of hajj pilgrimage but we have no other option but to dispatch more pilgrims and are looking forward to further assistance," the deputy foreign minister pointed out.

The Saudi charge d'affaires promised that his country would do all within its power to increase the quota of Iranian pilgrims, hoping that this would be done in a satisfactory manner.

Majles Speaker To Visit China 16 Dec

LD0312121891 Tehran IRNA in English 0819 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Beijing, Dec 3, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi will pay an official five-day visit to the People's Republic of China starting December 16, a spokesman for Iran's embassy here said Tuesday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi to be accompanied by a high-ranking political-parliamentary delegation, is visiting China at the invitation of Chairman of the Standing Committee Wan Li.

During the visit the Majles speaker will hold talks with President Yang Shangkun and a number of other Chinese officials, the spokesman added. The Iranian delegation will also tour a number of cities in southern China.

In conclusion of the five-day visit, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi and the delegation will depart for Yemen on an official visit.

New Air Force Includes 100 Iraqi Aircraft

PM0312162591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Dec 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iran Adds Iraqi 'Asylum' Aircraft to Its Air Force"]

[Excerpt] Tehran, Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to reports received from Tehran yesterday, the newly formed air force attached to the Iranian Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] includes over 100 Iraqi warplanes.

The pilots of these Iraqi aircraft fled to Iran during the Gulf War to prevent their destruction by Allied fire.

Some of the Iraqi warplanes took part in the IRGC air displays held in Tehran at a fair organized by the Iranian Military Industries Authority in cooperation with a number of Soviet arms-producing companies. The aircraft displayed at the fair included some MiG-29, MiG-31, and Su-24 aircraft, considered to be some of the most advanced aircraft in the Soviet arsenal. Some of them are believed to be Iraqi warplanes. Tehran sources say that Revolutionary Guard crews who flew the aircraft at the air fair in Tehran were trained in North Korea.

Western intelligence sources estimate that the number of Iraqi planes that fled to Iran was somewhere between 108 and 113. [passage omitted]

Clerics Warn Against Deviation From Teachings

NC3011213091 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 20 Nov 91 p 2

[Statement by Qom Seminarians Association issued in Qom; date not given]

[Excerpts] The Almighty and beneficent God has said: "But no, by thy Lord, they can have no real faith until they make thee judge in all disputes between them." [Koranic verse]

Some relatively aggressive actions are being observed in the political moves by some of the country's factions. These utterly disregard the crucial and sensitive position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in international politics and the relentless cultural, political, military, economic

and propaganda onslaught by world arrogance against this hallowed and divine system.

This requires that officials seriously review these factions. If their claims of being solicitous of the aspirations of the late imam—may God be pleased with him—are true, which aspiration is greater than safeguarding Iran's hallowed system and the revolution of the world of Islam and the domain of the sacred leadership of the system, that is, of the rule of the absolute Velayat-e Faqih?

In truth, the recent actions include attacks on legal institutions such as the Council of Guardians, the esteemed presidency and so on which have taken place and continue against most departments which are under the direct supervision of our great leader—may his shadow continue—such as the special clerical court, which is an esteemed institution that has rendered meritorious and brilliant services to our nation in the course of the Islamic revolution's history, which still savors the sweet taste of the sentencing of Mehdi Hashemi, and all other germs of corruption. [passage omitted]

For some time the slogans which efface the teachings of the imam have been propounded, but it is strange that those who raise these slogans are themselves indifferent to the aspirations of the late imam not only in action, but with regard to their slogans and they behave in such a manner that their own effacement of the imam becomes conspicuous.

On one day we heard the slogan which called for defending the oppressed and combating of the powers of arrogance with much fervor. The same day we received a report on transactions by some of our nonprofit organizations with Western countries, the revenues of which exceed millions [currency not specified] and which possess grand houses and automobiles.

On the one hand, they raise slogans of "O Imam!", and on the other they speak in favor of those who the imam spent the last months of his life trying to remove from the administration's socio-political scene.

We see how those who profess to defend the aspirations of the imam—may his soul be sanctified—and his lofty ideas have turned their backs on the higher interests of the system and are trying to bring back Ayatollah Montazeri to the political scene of the system with a lot of fanfare and propaganda.

We saw how on 4 November—the national day for combating world arrogance—which demands the solidarity and coordination of all strata of people, how they segregated their path from the nation and raised hollow and meaningless slogans and held separate ceremonies so that in practice, they have created a rift in the solid reinforced structure of the nation and leadership.

On the other hand, there are those who profess to uphold pure Islam and whom the imam had clearly differentiated from the others as the ossified ones [motahajjerin]. They have made the heart of the imam bleed. Their attempts to efface the imam and his lofty aspirations has reached the extent that "Hashemi-Rafsanjani", who always was the true servant of the imam and the apple of his eye, is being projected as one who is trying to flout the lofty aspirations of the imam. In this manner, they are violating the history of the Islamic revolution and the theological seminaries and the hallowed domain of the great sources of emulation regarding the protection of the sanctity of these holy and valuable institutions, of which the late imam was always insistent, and which have not remained immune to their attacks.

On the one hand, they raise the slogan of the pure Islam for the revival and implementation of which the dear imam spent his lifetime. On the other hand, they are silent about the onslaught of the debauched culture which the great leader—may his shadow continue—with his immense vigilance laid out the exact guidelines for combating. They continue to collude with the proponents of political and cultural liberalism, and by propounding Western-style concepts of democracy, freedom of speech and expression, they are dissipating the efforts of our dear late imam, who exposed their hollowness, lowliness and worthlessness.

Was it not the same Western-style freedom of speech and expression and democracy—which strove to extinguish this divine luminosity of the Islamic revolution—that our late imam assailed with his historical decree against the apostate and filthy Salman Rushdie? This divine light has become even more brilliant now. [passage omitted]

Any amount of tension or rabble-rousing cannot tarnish the lofty aspirations of the world of Islam. Our dear leader of the revolution has repeatedly stressed the need to eliminate tension and we wish to exhort the various factions and their leaders not to separate their paths from the path of the imam, the great leader, and the oppressed nation which has suffered much. It still is not too late.

In such circumstances, when the powers of world arrogance are daily raising fabricated issues and are threatening the revolution with calculated policies and warnings and pressure, relentless combat against this onslaught is imperative and demands unity and multilateral cohesion under the leadership of the guardian of the Muslims' cause—may his shadow continue.

Without any doubt, the fruition of the efforts of the esteemed, solicitous, able and expertly combatant president cannot be achieved without the simultaneous advancement toward a common and coordinated front with the multilateral support of the people.

The Islamic ummah and this vigilant nation, with its revolutionary beliefs, its absolute allegiance to the rule of the supreme jurisconsult, and which is enamored of the pure Islam, clearly has realized its obligations and considers its path different from that of those who have

segregated themselves from the Islamic ummah and the leadership with their rabble-rousing and spreading of tension.

The Islamic nation continues to carry out its revolutionary obligations under the leadership of the guardian of the Muslims' cause and to declare its disavowal of such deviations.

The association of Qom theological seminary, alongside the Islamic nation—with its serious belief in the higher interests of the system and the absoluteness of the rule of the supreme jurisconsult and their divine obligation at this extremely momentous time—condemns such a policy, which has no justification and is geared to avarice and the pursuit of carnal desires and to distance the people from the guidance of the absolute rule of the supreme jurisconsult and the pure Islam. It issues a serious warning to all ignorant and false-thinking friends, some of whom are selfish and cause trouble, that it is still not too late to come to their senses and join the vast ranks of the Islamic ummah under the leadership of the Vali-ye Amr-e Muslimin His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i—may his shadow continue—so that they can perform their divine and lawful obligations and move toward allegiance with the rule of the supreme jurisconsult instead of moving on the path of the dissemination of tension and rabble-rousing. Otherwise, their separation from the fervent tidal wave of the Islamic ummah and moving toward carnal desires will only result ultimately in regret and disgrace in the presence of the great Lord of the ages—may the souls of the world be sacrificed for his great advent—and the great leader—may his shadow continue—and the dear nation.

"And God has full power and control over His affairs" [Koranic verse]

Commentary Criticizes Statements

NC0312220391 Tehran SALAM in Persian
25 Nov 91 p 2

[Commentary by SALAM Political Department: "What is Going on in the Qom Theological Seminary?"]

[Text] Yesterday a pamphlet, or rather a second statement, was issued by the Clerics Association which we published for the information of our dear readers. There was nothing new in the statement, which said:

"We hereby state that the statement issued on Tuesday 19 November on behalf of the Qom seminarians association was disseminated prior to its being debated and ratified by the association."

The first statement bore the seal of the Qom seminarians office and was signed by one "Mas'udi" and was sent to the newspaper. The second statement bore the same signature. SALAM was amazed at seeing the second statement and, regretfully, published it. The amazement stemmed from wondering: Can this can be a statement from a group of people which includes leading and prominent scholars of the Qom seminary? The regret stemmed from wondering why some people are ready to demean the prestige and reputation of religious scholars and Islamic ulema and use their pens in the same manner as political groups, which do not abide by most of the criteria that the religious scholars have taught society.

A few days after the first statement was published, SALAM published a political commentary titled: "Why A Threat?" The commentary was published in edition number 146 of 23 November. The following question arises: If the first statement was issued without the members' approval, why was it not refuted immediately and the statement retracted? The following question also arises: What are the individuals in this office trying to do by all this?

If some factions or individuals have been subjected to attacks, insults, or humiliation, they should have responded and addressed their complaints to the association. This will obviously cause tension and result in some mudslinging. Will the perpetrators achieve their objectives this way?

What action has the Seminarians Association taken against those responsible? What is surprising is that there was no expression of regret in the second statement apart from these questions despite the extremely ugly text which is not befitting to the prestige of the honorable members of the Seminarians' Association and their credibility in society. Do these eminent personalities allow others the right to issue such statements on behalf of their office? Do they permit such denigration against a major political faction of the country and the revered faces of the society? Such instances would be followed by a short, terse statement that the first statement had not been ratified at the official session.

Can the Seminarians' Association really expect to be considered an umbrella over all of society with this episode? Will they not lose their base among the vast masses of the people who are enamored of the imam, the revolution, and Islam? From among the two divergent paths—the safeguarding of the sanctity and hallowed nature of the domain of the Islamic clergy and the eminent seminarians and attaining short-term political objectives—we do not think the seminarians plan to choose the latter, and we hope we are right.

Paper on Tendency To Criticize Islamic Court

NC0412105991 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
18 Nov 91 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Other Side of the Coin"]

[Excerpts] In yesterday's speech, the Tehran Majles deputy warned against the unwholesome political atmosphere, referring to Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemian's clerical court summons. He provided statistics that between 80 and 100 deputies emulate Ayatollah

Montazeri; as if proving that the "movement for his reinstatement" is stronger than support for his eminence the imam, pained by the historical incident removing Montazeri as leader-designate!

He cites his eminence the imam, who told Montazeri: "I do not think it fitting that you enter into issues and controversies outside jurisprudence and teaching, as events could be repeated and another Mehdi Hashemi could infiltrate your household." [passage omitted]

It seems that Alviri has forgotten what led to Montazeri's removal as leader-designate: Defending the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq]; joining the liberals, nationalists, the ummatis and Maythamis [counterrevolutionaries]; denigrating and insulting the Hezbollahis; doubting the revolution's aspirations; and, most important, standing up to his eminence the imam and so on.

Alviri, and the 90 people (the average of between 80 and 100 would be 90!) he claims are trying to propagandize in favor of Montazeri, would do well to consider his past record.

* Interior Ministry Announces Election Dates

92AS0241A London KEYHAN in Persian 31 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] The Ministry of the Interior of the Islamic Republic announced that elections for the Fourth Majles will be held throughout the country Friday 21 Farvardin 1371 [10 April 1992].

With the efforts of the two competing factions in the Islamic Republic to take over the Majles, it is expected that this election struggle will be one of the most intense struggles in the history of the Islamic Republic.

While the "hard-line" faction, which now holds the majority in the Majles, says that it is up to the Election Supervisory Committee to determine the competence of Majles candidates, the "moderate" faction considers the Council of Guardians to be the only competent authority to designate the Majles candidates, and to prove this they cite Article 99 of the Constitution, which names supervision of the elections and guaranteeing their proper conduct as duties of the Council of Guardians.

Several months ago the Council of Guardians issued a statement claiming for itself the sole right to determine the competence or the lack of competence of Majles candidates. Before this, the Council of Guardians by exercising such a prerogative in the elections for the Assembly of Experts, has been able to remove a number of "undesirable" elements from the roster of candidates for that Assembly.

Fifth Group of 'Hypocrites' Returns From Iraq

LD0412195291 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] A group of elements belonging to the hypocrites minigroup [Mojahedin-3 Khalq] returned to the Islamic homeland after realizing the facts and what they term as organizational crises. One of the returnees told the Central News Unit that following increasing internal organizational crises within the hypocrites organization, and realizing the extent of that organization's crimes, and the extensive break up of its elements, and a number of its members taking asylum in occupied Palestine, 59 members of that minigroup who were opposed to the performance of the hypocrites' leaders, returned to Iran yesterday.

It was also stated during that interview that another 400, who have separated from the atheist hypocrites, are currently living under severe conditions in Iraqi camps and are under pressure by the Iraqi regime to rejoin the hypocrites. That repentant group is the fifth group of hypocrites that has managed to return to the Islamic homeland, despite difficult conditions and the existing pressures by the Iraqi regime and the hireling hypocrites to stop their return to Iran.

Editorial Questions U.S. 'Political Gestures'

NC0212185791 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 24 Nov 91 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Diplomatic Gestures"]

[Text] Every so often noises are heard from Washington on its request to improve relations with Tehran and its wish to hold direct talks to solve bilateral problems.

Last week THE NEW YORK TIMES reported that the United States is preparing a statement in which it welcomes direct talks with Tehran to solve problems between the two sides.

A State Department spokesman has said: "Washington has always stated that it welcomes the improvement of relations with Iran, and we have clarified that we are ready for direct talks with Iranian Government officials over matters of interest to both countries, namely about the hostages."

In view of the U.S. Administration's record over the past 12 years and the policies of the White House on the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, statements like these are merely political gestures to justify Washington's stance against Iran.

Washington has still not learned how to speak to an Islamic and revolutionary system and with an independent country. It speaks with such systems and countries in the same way as it does with its satellites and minions.

Countries which insist on maintaining their independence will not gain anything if other states attempt to dominate political relations, if the sovereignty of independent governments is not observed, and if there is no mutual respect.

During the past 12 years, Washington has proven that it is allergic to freedom-seeking nations and independent governments. It has shown that it cannot stand them and

it is trying to use every possible excuse—political and economic—to lock the chains of dependence, first and foremost diplomatic dependence, to weak policies.

Even at a time when it is propagandizing the new world order and paying lipservice to democracy, Washington is not prepared in its relations with independent nations and governments to pursue the democracy it advocates. It does not grant nations the right of existence unless it is within its hegemonic frameworks.

Iran's assets continue to be frozen in America and the economic pressure against the Islamic Republic is being strongly pursued. New pressure has been introduced as well.

Under these conditions, what improvement of relations with Tehran is Washington talking about at a time when it cannot even go one step beyond diplomatic gestures?

Pakistan

Nuclear Program Seeks Energy Self-Sufficiency

BK0512081191 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 5 Dec 91 p 9

[Text] Quetta, Dec. 1—Pakistan is one of the six or seven countries of the world possessing uranium enrichment capability and advancing towards peaceful goal of its nuclear programme for self-reliance in its energy requirements.

Stating this in an exclusive interview here yesterday Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan said our nuclear programme is basically aimed at achieving self-reliance in our energy requirements for industrial, economic and social progress of the country and the nation. He hoped that these objectives would Inshallah [God willing] be achieved in not too distant future.

He said we have declared time and again that Pakistan's nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only, but still there is no end to propaganda against Pakistan by vested interests.

Comparing Pakistan's peaceful nuclear programme with Indian programme, Dr. Qadeer said India's war with China in 1962 gave greater fillip to its nuclear programme because Indian army proved to be paper tiger before the Chinese armed forces. So in 1974, India conducted a nuclear explosion and became an atomic power.

India has also manufactured ballistic missiles and other weapons proving its nuclear programme weapons oriented. Yet India claims pursuing peaceful nuclear programme.

Dr. Qadeer maintained as against this Pakistan has done nothing. She is willing to sign NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty] and open its nuclear facility to international inspection provided India does the same.

Such offer is not trust worthy for some world powers. Dr. Qadeer added that discrimination would never be acceptable to Pakistan. He said so far as Pakistan's defence is concerned there is nothing to worry about it. Pakistan defence is in strong hands. It is fully capable of defending its sovereignty and integrity with closer cooperation of the armed forces and the people.

Answering a question about American arms aid to Pakistan he said "we could very well do without it", elaborating his point Dr. Qadeer pointed out that American aid was around 110 to 112 million dollars per annum.

When calculated it comes to about two dollars per head in Pakistan worth one and half chicken.

He said Pakistan and other Muslim countries have tremendous resources. If these resources are pooled together and put to judicious use, Muslim Ummah [community] would need no foreign aid.

Replying to another question. Dr. Qadeer referred to emergence of independent Islamic republics in Central Asia. As part of a super-power these Islamic republics have advanced technology and know-how. Their scientific and technological knowledge as well as material, monetary and manpower resources of other Muslim countries could be beneficial for the progress and prosperity of Muslim Ummah including Pakistan.

He said Pakistan under dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has adopted a realistic and practical policy of self-reliance and self-sustained economy. He said with the successful implementation of this policy Pakistan Inshallah would become an aid giving country instead of aid seeking.

He said by the grace of God Pakistan is already on take-off stage, providing employment for people from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and other countries on an almost the same pattern as our people going to Europe, America and Middle East.

Sri Lanka

Police Find Unexploded Car Bomb Prior to Summit

BK0512082091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0810 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Colombo, Dec 5 (AFP)—Police said Thursday they had found an abandoned vehicle packed with explosives at a crowded market here earlier this week as they stepped up security in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo ahead of a South Asian summit.

The explosives, weighing 36 kilos (79.2 pounds), were strapped to the bottom of the fuel tank of a small van which had been parked for about 10 days outside the busy World Market, police said.

They confirmed a report in the state-run DINAMINA daily that military bomb experts had earlier cleared the vehicle but a police constable in a chance discovery

found the 36 sticks of gelignite late Tuesday. Cabinet spokesman Ranil Wickremesinghe told reporters that he had no immediate details on the discovery.

The explosives, without a detonator, were found just before the authorities announced the reconvening here of the aborted South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit for December 21.

"The investigations are still on to trace the owner of the vehicle. It is too early to say if the bomb was intended for the SAARC summit," a defence official here said.

Leaders of SAARC, which groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, were to have met here on November 7 but the summit was aborted in the last minute with the withdrawal of the king of Bhutan.

Indian officials have also expressed concern about the security situation in Sri Lanka, although the authorities here have repeatedly assured that they would provide maximum protection to the visiting leaders.

Heavily armed soldiers were seen carrying out stepped up checks on cars and other vehicles in and around the capital as part of the security arrangements for the summit.

Tamil guerrillas fighting Colombo troops in the island's northeast have been blamed for several devastating bomb blasts in the capital, including a major car bomb attack on the main military headquarters that reduced it to a shambles.